# YU YU HAKUSHO




SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

## Yoshihiro Togashi

volume 3





冨樫義博

"IF I COULD BE REINCARNATED AS ANYONE, WHO WOULD I BE" PART 3: A PSYCHIC. A REALLY STRONG ONE. MY POWERS MANIFEST IN MY SENIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL AFTER I FAIL THE EXAMS FOR A TOP COLLEGE. USING MY POWERS OF TELEPATHY, PSYCHOKINESIS, AND TELEPORTATION, I COMMIT A MULTITUDE OF EVIL ACTS, BUT I STOP AFTER MEETING A GIRL WITH PRECOGNITION WHO GOES TO MY CRAM SCHOOL, AND WE FALL IN LOVE. (MAN, I'M AN IDIOT.) AFTER THE GIRL'S PRECOG POWERS WARN US THAT SOME BIG-TIME COUNTRY'S INTELLIGENCE DIVISION IS COMING TO THREATEN OUR LIVES, WE ESCAPE FROM THEIR ASSASSINS AND BEGIN WHAT WILL BECOME A DAILY ROUTINE OF ESCAPE AND MORTAL COMBAT. WE ARE STILL IN HIDING IN SOME UNDISCLOSED LOCATION TODAY.

*—YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI, 1991*

Born in 1966, Yoshihiro Togashi won the prestigious Tezuka Award for new manga artists at the age of 20. He debuted in Japan's WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP magazine in 1988 with the romantic comedy manga TENDE SHOWARU CUPID. His hit comic YU YU HAKUSHO ran in SHONEN JUMP from 1990 to 1994. Togashi's other manga include I'M NOT AFRAID OF WOLVES!, LEVEL E, and HUNTER X HUNTER. He and his wife, SAILOR MOON creator Naoko Takeuchi, have a son.



# YUYU HAKUSHO VOL. 3
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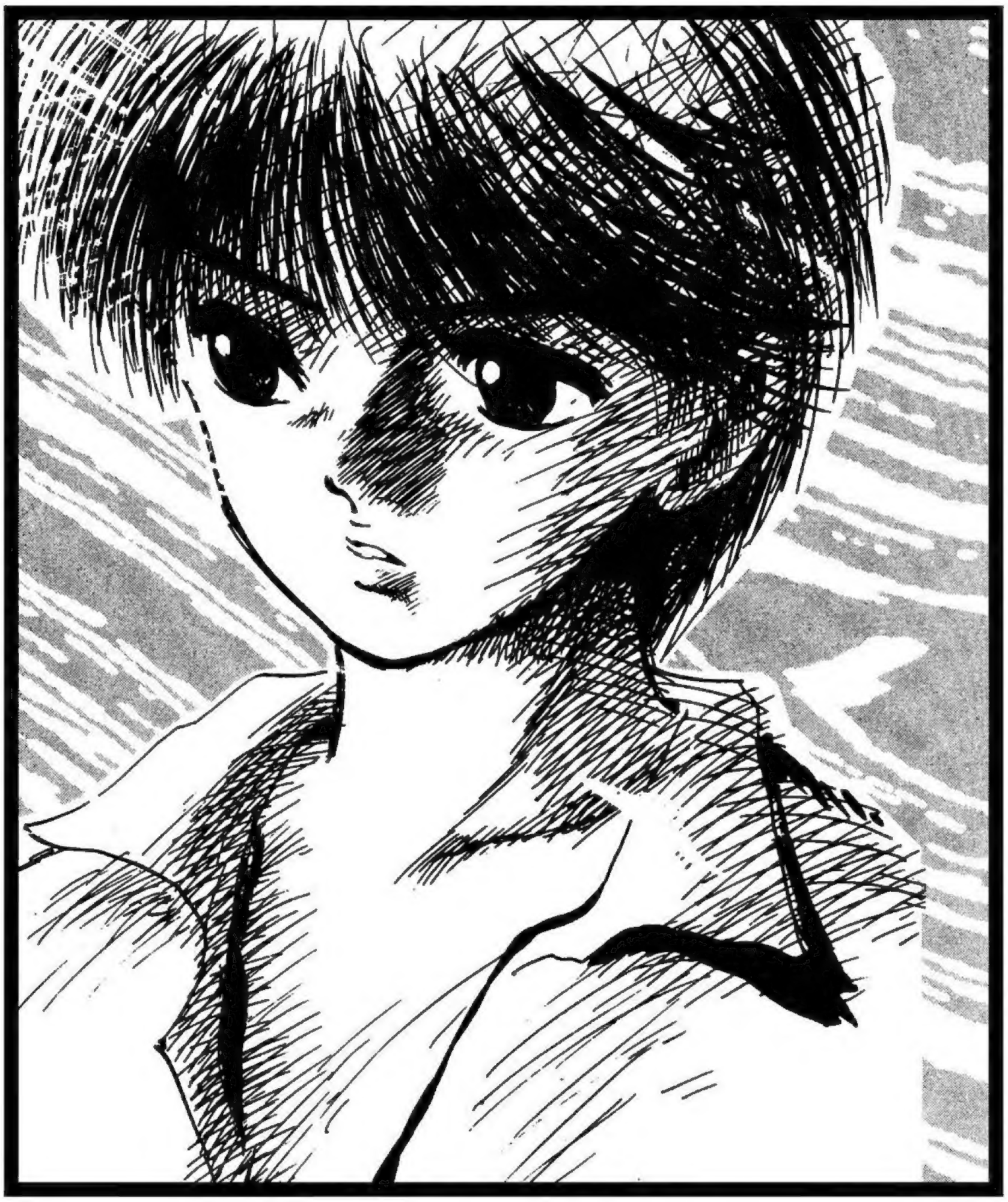
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SHONEN JUMP MANGA

# YU YU HAKUSHO

## Vol.3
## IN THE FLESH



STORY AND ART BY
**YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI**



# THE STORY SO FAR...

When surly street punk Yusuke Urameshi died in an unexpected act of self-sacrifice, the Underworld decided to give him a second chance. After weeks of trials in the afterlife, Yusuke has returned to his body and to life. But the Underworld isn't through with him yet. As Yusuke resumes his old life of junior-high delinquency, his contacts in the spirit world prepare to introduce him to a whole new career...



**YUSUKE URAMESHI** 浦飯幽助
The toughest student at Sarayashiki Junior High - until his untimely death. Now he's finally rejoined the world of the living.

ぼたん **BOTAN**
The ferrywoman of the Sanzu River (the River Styx in Western mythology), Botan guided Yusuke through his trials in the afterlife.





**KEIKO YUKIMURA** 雪村螢子
Yusuke's childhood friend. She cared for his comatose body while he was dead and delivered the kiss that returned him to life.






**コエンマ KOENMA**

The son of King Enma, lord of the Underworld. He runs the spirit world while his father is away.



**KUWABARA 桑原**

Another Sarayashiki delinquent, and Yusuke's chief rival. An encounter with the ghostly Yusuke awakened untapped psychic powers within him.



**浦飯温子 ATSUKO URAMESHI**

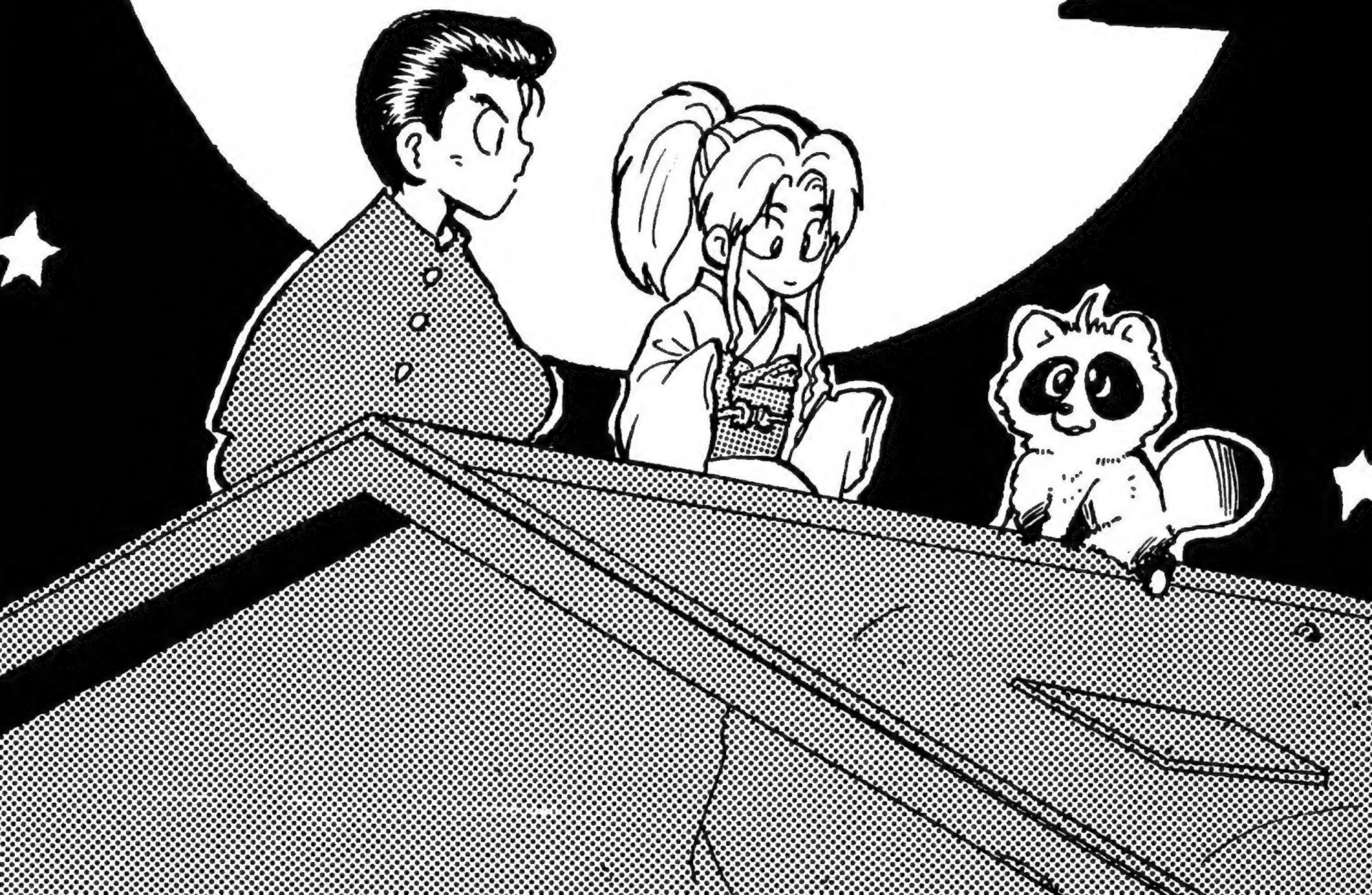
Yusuke's loving but flaky mom, who's better at partying than looking after her delinquent son.



YU YU HAKUSHO VOLUME 3 IN THE FLESH

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# CHAPTER 18: THE NEW MISSION!!

AFTER REUNITING WITH HIS MOST FAITHFUL LIVING OVERSEER, KEIKO (WHO WENT BACK TO HER OWN HOUSE, OF COURSE), HE IS NOW ON THE TOWN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG WHILE.

YUSUKE HAS MANAGED, IN SPITE OF FEARFUL ODDS, TO RETURN TO LIFE.

...

IT REALLY IS GREAT TO BE ALIVE.

SIGH

CHAT CHAT

# Chapter 18:
# THE NEW MISSION!!

...BUT NOTHING BEATS LIFE.

BEING A GHOST WAS ONE HECK OF AN EXPERIENCE...

I COULD PICK A FIGHT WITH ANYTHING, OR ANYONE!

DAMN, I FEEL GOOD!

DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?

YOU THERE!

HM?

THEY BESTOWED STRANGE TRAITS.

YOU WERE BORN UNDER STRANGE STARS.

I AM.

YOU TALKIN' TO ME?

IMAGINE IF I TOLD HER I WAS A GHOST UNTIL YESTERDAY.

YEAH? SUCH AS?

SUCH AS THE TALENT AND SKILL FOR YOUR TRUE MISSION IN LIFE.

...

MY ONLY MISSION IN LIFE IS TO GET MY **KICKS** WHILE I CAN.

SORRY, BUT IF YOU'RE TRYING TO GET ME TO SIGN UP FOR SOMETHING, I'VE HAD ENOUGH OCCULT STUFF FOR A LIFETIME!

...

THEY'RE GETTIN' PRETTY THICK AROUND HERE...

THAT'S A KASANEGAFUCHI JUNIOR HIGH HANGOUT.

THE FAR CRY

AND IT'S TIME I GOT STARTED.

FIRST, I'LL SIT BACK WITH A SMOKE IN A CAFÉ.

WELCOME!

DING-A LING

...

IF ONLY URAMESHI WAS STILL AROUND...

WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THEY CHALLENGE KUWABARA'S POSSE FOR THEIR TURF.

HMPH... THAT'S NOT HIM.

MOVING IN LIKE ROACHES IN MY ABSENCE.

THEY'RE KASANE, ALL RIGHT.

CURRENT TURF DISTRIBUTION

KASANEGAFUCHI JR. HIGH AND SARAYASHIKI JR. HIGH ARE ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE RIVER STICKS. IT WAS TO YUSUKE'S CREDIT THAT KASANE JR. HIGH, ALSO KNOWN AS THE GANGSTER PREP SCHOOL, HADN'T EXPANDED THEIR TURF ANY FURTHER.

CAFÉ

KASANE JR. HIGH

RIVER STICKS

SARA JR. HIGH

HELLO? WHAT'S THIS?

AND FROM THE LOOKS OF IT I'D SAY HE'S THE LEADER OF THAT PACK.

AM I CRAZY, OR DOES THAT PUNK HAVE HORNS ON HIS HEAD?

KUWABARA'S LATE.

!

WE HAVE AN ACE IN THE HOLE.

HE'LL SHOW.

YEAH. HOW'RE YOU SO SURE HE'LL SHOW UP?

D'YA THINK HE'LL DITCH?

...

MOREOVER, I TOLD HIM ON THE PHONE THAT HE AND HIS FRIENDS HAVE TO SHOPLIFT SOME MANGA ON THE WAY OVER.

DING-A-LING

KUWABARA LIVES TO **FIGHT**. HE'D NEVER STEAL OR EXTORT STUFF.

HEH, FAT CHANCE THERE.

WEEKLY CHUNEN JUMBO

WEEKLY CHUNEN



HOLD ON THERE, KUWA-CHAN.

YOU GOT THE GOODS?

LEMME SEE HIM!

EIKICHI!! WHERE'S EIKICHI?!

...!!

GRR!

DAILY ...NEN HOP

THUMP

ALL THE DIFFERENCE. YOU WERE TO ENJOY THE THRILL OF SHOPLIFTING.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES THAT MAKE?

BUT YOU'VE RENEGED.

NOT SO FAST. WHAT'S WITH THIS RECEIPT? I TOLD YOU TO STEAL THEM.

HE DIDN'T!

THERE! HAPPY NOW?

NOW WHERE'S EIKICHI?!

ON YOUR KNEES, SLEAZE.

APOLOGIZE FOR BREAKING YOUR PROMISE.

SO... APOLOGIZE.

HUH?

K- KUWABARA...

SHUT UP!

YOU'RE ASKING FOR IT!!

YOU SCUMBAG !!

SAY WHAT? I CAN'T HEAR YOU.

I'M SORRY... I BROKE MY PROMISE.

I SAID I'M SORRY!

SHUMP

GIVE EIKICHI BACK!

NOW ARE YOU HAPPY?

MEOW.

THIS PUNY CAT MEANS THAT MUCH TO YA?

BIZARRE... ALL FOR A GUY NAMED EIKICHI...

BWA HA HA

PATHETIC!!

HE ACTUALLY DID IT!

E-EIKICHI!

ACK!!

ACK!

ACK!

WHIFF WHIFF

STOP! ENOUGH!

WUSSY WUSSY, L'IL PUSSY.

KUWABARA'S NUTS FOR CATS... EIKICHI IS HIS BABY...

STEADY...

THEY'RE GOING TOO FAR...

PISSIN' HIS PANTS OVER A PET CAT.

TOP DOG OF SARAYASHIKI JR. HIGH, EH? TOO FUNNY. YOU'RE A JOKE, MAN.

TRUE, ALL TRUE. JUST DON'T HURT HIM!

BWA HA HA HA

WEEKLY CHUNEN

...

...BUT I HEAR HE DIED SAVING SOME KID.

YOUR PREVIOUS TOP DOG, URAMESHI, WAS A REAL HARDCASE, AND A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR US...

HEE HEE...YOU DO SOMETHING GOOD, AND SEE WHERE IT GETS YOU?

IT'S FUN, AND WILL PREVAIL IN THE END.

"ENOUGH" IS WHEN YOU GET WITH THE PROGRAM, KUWABARA, AND TASTE EVIL.

YEAH! WORD IS THEY WERE ALSO **TOTALLY SLOSHED!**

HA HA HA

YEAH, **RIGHT!!**

HE MIGHT **NOT** BE DEAD...

BUT WE'VE HEARD URAMESHI'S ZOMBIE KICKED MOTOMOTO'S ASS REAL GOOD.

LET'S STEP OUTSIDE, GET SOME AIR.

SO MUCH FOR DEAD PEOPLE.

PUNCH THOSE GUYS OUT.

MAKE YOUR **POINT** AND GIVE EIKICHI BACK!!

I'VE HAD IT WITH BEIN' JERKED AROUND!

POUND 'EM TILL I SAY ENOUGH!

THEY'VE BEEN GIVING ME "THE LOOK" THE WHOLE TIME.

ONE... TWO...GO!

MEW

OK, LAST ORDER.

...WON'T **DO THAT!**

I...

...

SWUSH

...OR THE KITTY LOSES AN EYE.

DO IT...

?

WE CAN TAKE IT... THEN GIVE IT BACK TO THESE IDIOTS AFTER THEY TURN OVER EIKICHI.

DO WHAT HE SAYS, KUWABARA.

FORGET IT!!

SISSS

NO? OKAY, YOU **STUPID**...

# POP

!!

MEW.

WHA...

THUD

OH...
MY...
GOD!!

GREETINGS FROM HELL, GUYS.

YO...

QUICK CHANGE INTO BATTLE MODE.

WHUUH

HE DID IT! HE MADE IT BACK!!

RIGHT.

HUH? OH.

HEY!!

U-

URAMESHI?!?!

URA-

GYAACK

UH...

SEE THESE BUTTWIPES, GUYS?

THOOK

NOW LET'S... FLUSH 'EM!!

HEY.

YOU FORGOT SOMETHIN'.

CRACK

YAAH!

THIS SUCKS...

URK...

BAM

POW

SHUFFLE SHUFFLE

GRAB

NO!

OKAY

HM?

POP

WHAT A LOWLIFE, HURTING A KITTEN.

OWW.

!

ffft

I'M OUTTA HERE.

?!

WHAT ARE YOU?

WHAT?!

CRACKLE

AND YOU UNDERSTAND ME!

YOU THINK I'D LET YOU GET AWAY, YOU UGLY TAPEWORM?

BUT YOU...

IMPOSSIBLE! NO MORTAL CAN SEE ME!

...YOU **DO**! AND YOU **GRABBED** ME WITH YOUR BARE HANDS!!

GOOD WORK. THAT DEMON'S A WANTED UNDERWORLD CRIMINAL WITH 5 PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS.

OF COURSE, HE PREFERS SOULS ALREADY INCLINED TO HIS INFLUENCE.

HIS SPECIALTY IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF SOMEONE'S DARK SIDE AND LEADING HIM DOWN THE PATH OF EVIL.

YOU'RE THAT FORTUNE-TELLER...

...BUT YOU'VE ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF THAT. AS I SAID, GOOD WORK.

...

I WAS ON MY WAY TO ASSIGN YOU TO CATCH THIS NASTY LITTLE PARASITE...

YOU HAVE THE INSTINCTS AND ABILITIES TO TRACK DOWN AND DEAL WITH THESE OTHERWORLDLY THREATS!

YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE A GREAT **UNDERWORLD DETECTIVE.**

I CAN'T... BREATHE...

...

FWIP

?!

AH, HOW SOON WE FORGET.

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!

WHAT THE FLIPPIN' DING-DONG ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?

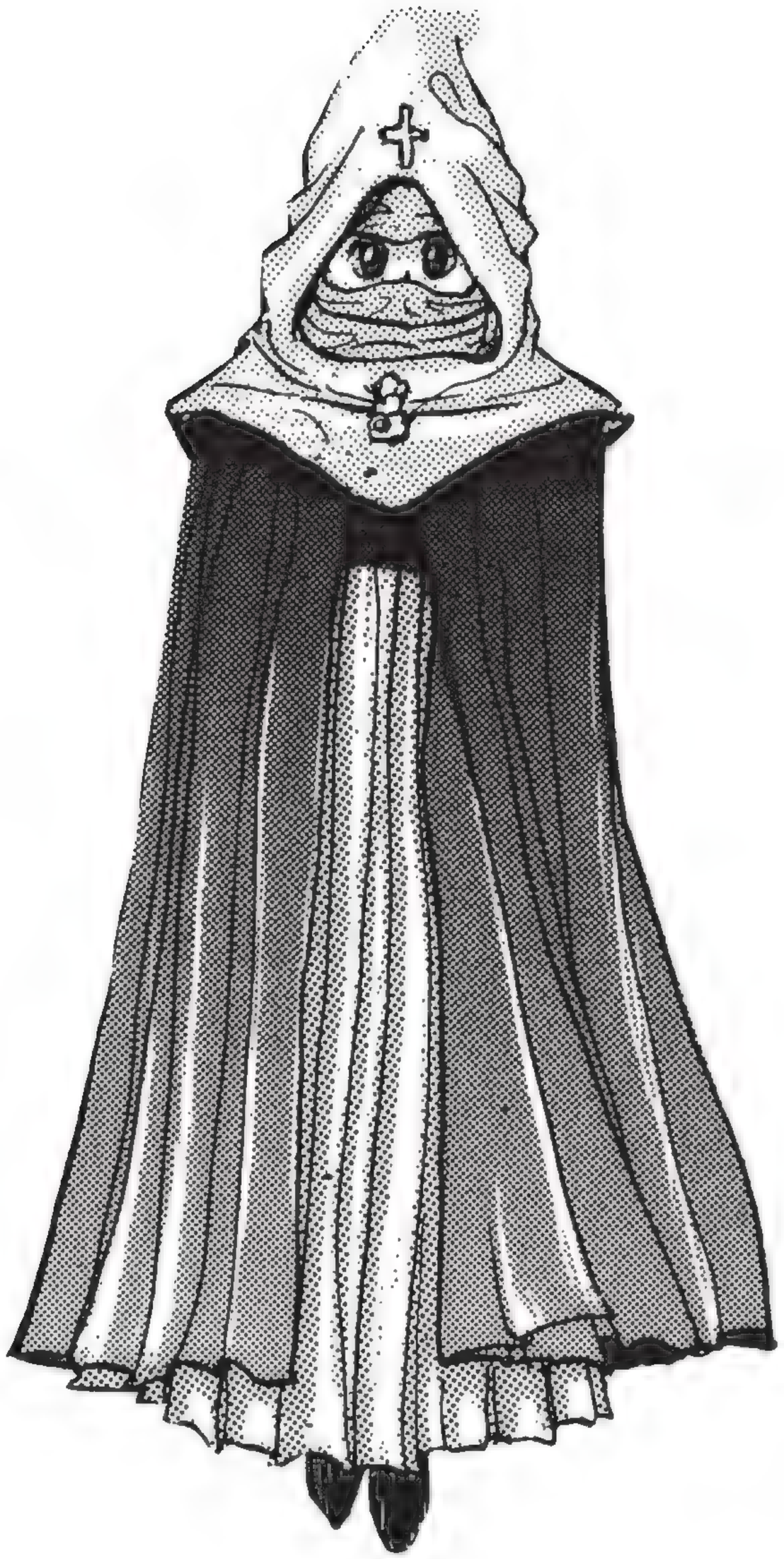
HACK ...

I'M BOTAN, EVER-POPULAR SPIRIT WORLD MESSENGER. I'LL BE BRINGING YOU YOUR ASSIGNMENTS...

...AND RENDERING ASSISTANCE AS NEEDED.

ANYTHING BUT THIS!!

NO...



# CHAPTER 19: ACTION!!

HEY, C'MON, WAKE UP.

YUSUKE!! YUSUKE!!

...

OOF

...WOKE UP.

YOU...

WEEH...

YOU'RE REALLY AWAKE.

...WHAT'S GOING ON? IT'S JUST 7 A.M.

MA...

OH.

SHE'S BEEN LIKE THIS EVER SINCE.

MY MOM FOUND OUT FIVE DAYS AGO... FIVE DAYS AFTER KEIKO...THAT I'D REVIVED.

YAWN

CAN'T HELP IT... I'M SO AFRAID YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WAKE UP, LIKE BEFORE...

OH, NOT AGAIN! MA, I'M OKAY!!

CH-
CHK

# Chapter 19: ACTION!!

?

EEP!

OOH AHH

HUH ...?

YIPES!

TOO WEIRD!

WELL... IT'S NOTHING NEW.

HMPH, THEY ACT LIKE I WAS A ZOMBIE.

BUT ACCORDING TO KEIKO, A LOT OF BIG BLACK CARS WERE PARKED AROUND THE SCHOOL THAT DAY, SO I BET THE TEARS WERE ON THE PRINCIPAL'S FACE.

BACK OF PRINCIPAL'S HEAD

IT WASN'T EASY GETTING ME BACK IN SCHOOL, BUT APPARENTLY MA WAS UP TO THE CHALLENGE. SHE TOLD ME THE PRINCIPAL WAS MOVED BY HER TEARS.

KUWABARA.

MAYBE I'LL CUT OUT TODAY, AND...

STILL, COMING HERE SUCKS.

;

PUNK

GOOD. I GET ANOTHER **SHOT.**

SO YOU MANAGED TO RETURN TO LIFE.

SHUT UP.

WEREN'T YOU GOING TO THANK HIM FOR SAVING EIKICHI?

WHAT'S WITH HIM?

ENJOY WHAT LIFE YOU'VE GOT LEFT... HA HA HA.

AND THIS TIME IT'LL BE ME SENDING YOU TO HELL.

WHAP

HEY.

WHO NEEDS THIS CRAP? I'M OFF...

THAT DOES IT, MAN.

THIS IS YOUR FIRST DAY BACK, YUSUKE. DON'T DAWDLE!

...

MORNING, YUSUKE!

WHAT'S THE MATTER? COME ON.

THE BELL'S GOING TO RING.

COME ON, HURRY!

OKAY, OKAY...

WELL, MAYBE TO HER IT WAS JUST CPR...

KEIKO ACTS LIKE NOTHING'S DIFFERENT SINCE...

LIKE A COCKROACH... HE WON'T STAY DEAD.

HMPH...

NO MATTER WHAT OTHERS MAY THINK, URAMESHI...

...TO **ME** YOU'RE SCUM, A BLACK BLOT ON THE GOOD NAME OF THIS FINE SCHOOL.

I'LL ERADICATE YOU, THIS TIME FOR GOOD!

BATHROOM.

WHERE'S URAMESHI?

WON'T SEE HIM FOR A WHILE, THEN.

PHWEEET

HMM...

THIS LOOKS LIKE ANY LENS ON A KEYCHAIN.

RUMMAGE

MASTER KOENMA WILL DISPATCH ME WITH YOUR ASSIGNMENTS.

ALONG WITH ITEMS THAT MAY BE OF USE.

YOUR JOB AS UNDERWORLD DETECTIVE IS TO SOLVE CRIMES IN THE LIVING WORLD THAT...

...HAVE SOME UNDERWORLD CONNECTION.

OR SPIRIT WORLD, AS THEY SOMETIMES CALL IT.

WHAT GOOD CAN IT BE TO A DETECTIVE?

SEE-THROUGH GLASS

A LENS THAT ENABLES ONE TO SEE THROUGH WALLS AND OTHER OBSTRUCTIONS.

TA-DAA!! FIRST UP, WHAT EVERY DETECTIVE NEEDS: THE SEE-THROUGH GLASS.

...SO YOU'LL HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO HANDLE THEM ONE AT A TIME.

SIX MORE, IN TURN. UNDERWORLD DEVICES CONSUME CONSIDERABLE SPIRITUAL POWER...

...THANKS, I GUESS. AND THERE'LL BE OTHERS?

UM...

AS FOR P.E., PHOOEY ON IT.

I DON'T NEED TO LOOK THROUGH ANYTHING RIGHT NOW.

RUMMAGE

2—B

*YUSUKE'S CLASS

JUST AS I FIGURED.

IT'LL BE MORE SUSPICIOUS IF THEY'RE NEVER FOUND.

I'LL PUT THEM IN HIS BAG... NO, BETTER YET, I'LL PUT THEM IN THE INCINERATOR.

IF ALL THESE THINGS GO MISSING, THE ACCUSATIONS WILL FLY...

...EVENTUALLY LANDING ON URAMESHI, SINCE HE SKIPPED P.E.

I'LL JUST APPROPRIATE IT.

SLIP

HMM... INTERESTING LITTLE GEEGAW.

IT'S GONE!

2-B

HUH? WHERE-?!

?!

SILENCE

...

MY **LUCKY** FOUNTAIN PEN, THE ONE WITH THE GOLD DRAGON WRAPPED AROUND IT. IT WAS ONE OF A KIND.

WHAT'S GONE, TAKAI?

AND MY CALCULATOR!

HEY! MY **WATCH** IS MISSING!

MUTTER

MURMR

MUTTER

MRMR

MRMR

IT WAS IN MY BAG BEFORE I WENT TO P.E.!!

WHAT'RE YOU LOOKIN' AT?

WHAT?

CONGRATS!!

3 VOLUMES AND STILL GOING!

LOOK, URAMESHI WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO WASN'T AT P.E....

YOU GUYS ARE TOO QUICK TO ASSUME GUILT!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

RATTLE

I DIDN'T TAKE ANYTHING!

STOP LYING!!

WHAP

* THIS IS A BONUS DRAWING BY ANOTHER ARTIST, CONGRATULATING TOGASHI ON REACHING THE THIRD VOLUME OF YUYU HAKUSHO.

INCIDENTS OF STEALING WENT WAY DOWN WHILE HE WAS GONE.

AND I HEARD YOUR MOTHER PRACTICALLY BLACKMAILED THE PRINCIPAL.

...AND HE'S JUST THE SORT TO SEIZE IT.

HE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY ...

DO YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE ANY PROOF TO BACK UP THIS CHARGE?!

YOU SLIME !!

LIKE MOTHER LIKE SON, I'D SAY.

I NEED THE UNDERWORLD DETECTIVE! NOW!!

?!!

YUSUKE! DROP EVERYTHING!

Jr

?

WELL, URAMESHI?

YOU GOING TO HIT ME, OR WHAT?

WHUH...

THAT CAME OUT OF NOWHERE...

WHUH...

# STUNNED

THE CULPRITS ARE AT LARGE AND ARE PRESUMED TO BE HIDING SOMEWHERE IN THE HUMAN WORLD!

Jr

WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?

LISTEN! THE UNDERWORLD TREASURE VAULT'S BEEN BROKEN INTO AND THE FOLLOWING STOLEN: THE CONJURING BLADE, THE MIRROR OF DARKNESS, AND THE RAPACIOUS ORB.

YUSUKE!! YOU **MUST** TRACK THEM DOWN AND **RECOVER** THESE THREE DARK TREASURES!!

THEY EXIST BETWEEN THE WORLD OF THE LIVING AND THE DEAD, AND ONCE THEY HIDE THEMSELVES AMONG HUMANS THEY'RE BEYOND MY REACH.

THESE **PERPS** ARE CURRENTLY AT THE TOP OF THE UNDERWORLD'S MOST WANTED LIST.

DON'T BE **STUPID!**

BUZZ OFF! I'M BUSY!

?

ALL THREE DARK TREASURES HAVE THE CAPACITY TO BE TURNED INTO **DEADLY WEAPONS** THAT COULD MANIPULATE OR HARM HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE!!

Jr

IF THESE VILLAINS GET THE CHANCE TO WIELD THESE ITEMS IN THE LIVING WORLD, OR IF A HUMAN GETS THEIR HANDS ON ONE OF THEM, THERE WILL BE **SERIOUS TROUBLE.**

WHAT?!

CHECK HIS POCKET WITH THE LENS BOTAN GAVE YOU!

HE'S GOT YOUR CLASSMATE'S **PEN** THERE!!

OF COURSE NOT! **HE DID!!**

OKAY, BUT I'M IN A BIT OF A JAM **MYSELF!!**

THEY THINK I **STOLE** SOME STUFF, BUT I DIDN'T!

GLARE

!!

HEY!!

URK...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

TH-THAT'S **MINE.**

THEY'RE... THEY'RE FAIRLY COMMON.

SEEMS I'VE JUST RECOVERED TAKAI'S FOUNTAIN PEN.

WELL, LOOK WHAT I FOUND.

'CAUSE TAKAI SAID THIS BUTT-UGLY THING'S ONE-OF-A-KIND.

THAT SO?

WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON HERE?

THEN WHY'D HE SAY HE LOST IT DURING P.E.?

...HE ASKED ME TO HOLD ONTO IT FOR HIM THIS MORNING.

NO... I DIDN'T MEAN... THAT IS...

LOOK, I HAVE TO GET TO A MEETING!

TAKAI FORGOT, AND WITH THAT OTHER STUFF MISSING...

URK.

...

YES WE ARE.

HOLD ON, MR. IWAMOTO, WE'RE NOT THROUGH HERE.

shf

NO... HE TRIED TO FRAME ME!

THERE. YOU'RE ACQUITTED. NOW GO INVESTIGATE.

CREEP ...

LIKE THIS...

FOCUS ON YOUR RIGHT INDEX FINGER AND PICTURE ENERGY FROM YOUR ENTIRE BODY CONCENTRATING THERE.

SIGH... THEN DO IT WITHOUT BEING SEEN.

HOW DO I DO THAT?!

YOU JUST GOT OFF THE HOOK, AND NOW YOU WANT TO GET IN REAL TROUBLE BY STRIKING A TEACHER?

HE'S GOTTA PAY!

I'M **PISSED**, DAMMIT!!

?

DON'T YOU WALK OUT!

THIS IS NUTS!

TROMP TROMP

NOW THEN, TAKE AIM...

...AND PULL THE TRIGGER IN YOUR MIND.

HEY, IT'S GLOWING... AND GETTING WARM!

POW.

WHOA!

I FEEL SO STUPID, BUT... POW!!

HWUCK!!

MR. IWAMOTO, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

WHAT IN THE WORLD MADE HIM **PITCH OVER** LIKE THAT?

HOLY CHEESE ...

IT...IT WORKS! AWESOME!

...LET'S GO CATCH THOSE **UNDERWORLD CREEPS!!**

GOTCHA. AND NOW THAT I'M SATISFIED...

ITS PUNCH IS TWICE AS POWERFUL AS YOUR PHYSICAL ONE.

THE **REI GUN**— "REI" MEANING "SPIRIT." IT CHANNELS YOUR AURA INTO YOUR FINGERTIP.

BUT AT YOUR PRESENT LEVEL OF ABILITY YOU GET ONLY ONE SHOT A DAY, SO BE JUDICIOUS.

# CHAPTER 20: THE DEADLY TRIO

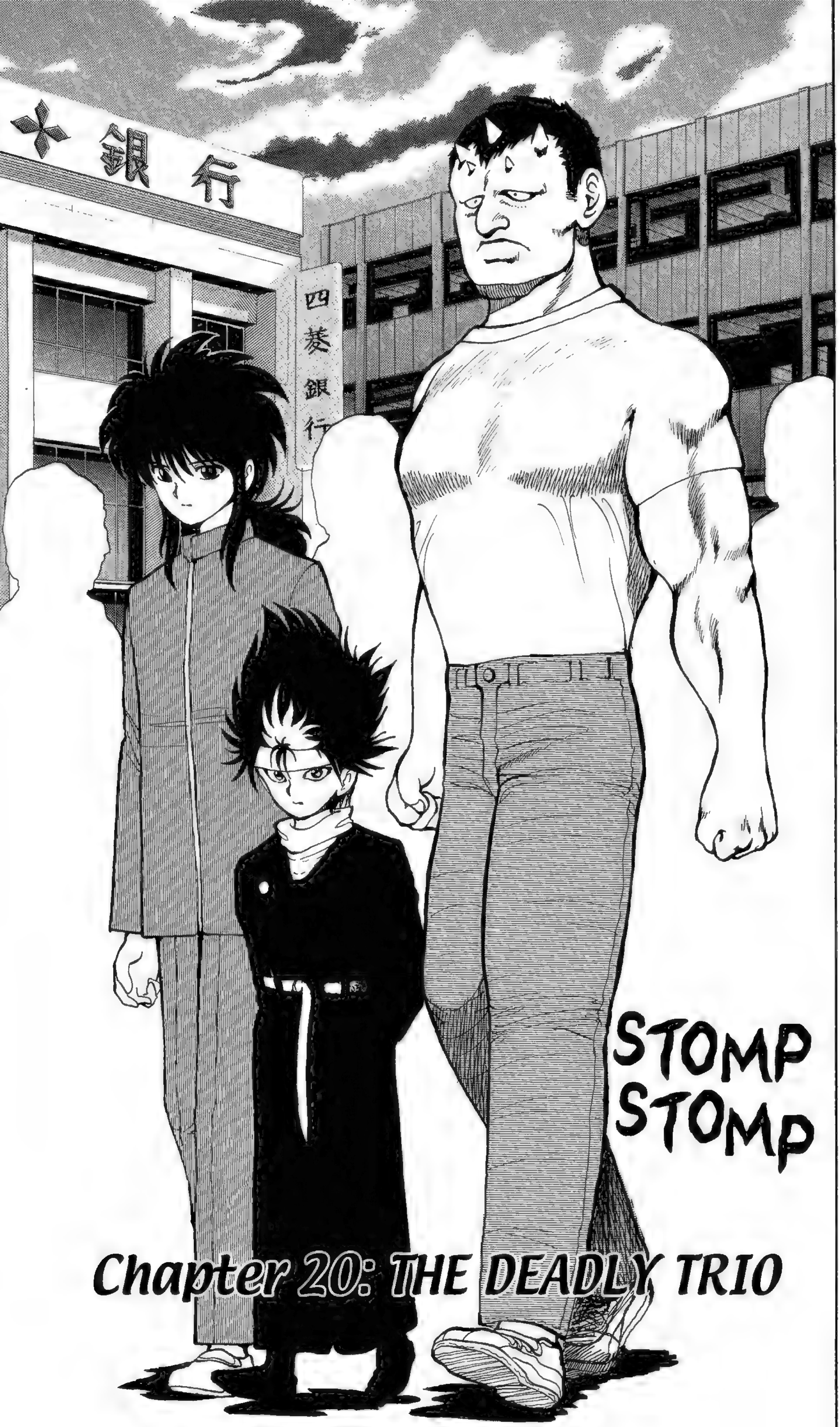
KOENMA, THE JUDGE OF THE DEAD, HAS APPOINTED YUSUKE AS HIS UNDERWORLD DETECTIVE!!

HIS PRESENT CASE: CATCHING THE THIEVES WHO STOLE THREE DARK TREASURES FROM THE UNDERWORLD...

...BUT HOW CAN I POSSIBLY PICK THEM OUT IN THIS CROWD?

KOENMA THINKS THEY'RE HIDING SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE...

?!




# Chapter 20: THE DEADLY TRIO

COULD IT BE THOSE THREE?

THEY SEEM TO BE TOGETHER...

THAT BIG GUY, THOUGH...

...HE'S GOT **HORNS**, JUST LIKE THAT OTHER PUNK...

THOSE TWO LOOK FAIRLY NORMAL.

shuff

...

NATTER NATTER

HE **SICK** OR SOMETHING?

MURMUR MURMUR

HEY, THAT **KID** JUST **COLLAPSED!**

MEANWHILE, IN THE UNDERWORLD...

KURAMA:
NO PRIOR CONVICTIONS.
TRUE IDENTITY UNKNOWN.
ELUSIVE; HAS ASSUMED MANY GUISES.

GOKI:
12 PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS.
DEMON SOUL-EATER WITH STUPENDOUS STRENGTH.
HAS KILLED DOZENS OF BOUNTY HUNTERS.

HIEI:
NO PRIOR CONVICTIONS.
TRUE IDENTITY UNKNOWN.
COLD-BLOODED; STOPS AT NOTHING TO ACHIEVE HIS GOALS.

YUSUKE'S NO MATCH FOR THESE VILLAINS! WE DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT KURAMA AND HIEI!

LORD KOENMA, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, I THINK THIS IS A BAD IDEA!

BUT THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT NOW! WE HAVE TO GET **MOVING** ON THIS!

I AGREE. I INTENDED TO START HIM ON EASY ASSIGNMENTS AND LET HIM WORK HIS WAY UP TO TACKLING THE TOUGH JOBS.

IN HUMAN TERMS, ONE WEEK!

...THEN HOW MUCH TIME **DO** WE HAVE?

WELL, OKAY...

WE CAN'T DO THIS IN **ONE WEEK!!**

WUH... **ONE WEEK?!**

WE HAVE TO, BOTAN.

IN ONE WEEK, MY DAD WILL BE BACK FROM HIS BUSINESS TRIP.

GULP... THE REAL KING ENMA?

YEP. THOSE STOLEN ITEMS ARE AMONG HIS FAVORITES IN THE UNDERWORLD TREASURE COLLECTION.

THE **BIGGEST.** DAD'S RAGE WILL EMBRACE HEAVEN AND EARTH.

BIG TIME TROUBLE, HUH?

YOU CAN'T STOP THE OLD MAN WHEN HE'S ANGRY.

EARTHQUAKES, NATURAL DISASTERS... THOSE ARE THE USUAL REPERCUSSIONS IN THE LIVING WORLD.

IF HE GETS BACK HOME...

...AND FINDS OUT THAT THEY WERE **STOLEN**...

006.

AND THAT'S JUST THE COLLATERAL DAMAGE. **OUR** PUNISHMENT WILL BE **WORSE!**

IN THIS CASE, I PREDICT A SHAKEUP MORE VIOLENT AND WIDESPREAD THAN THE GREAT KANTO EARTHQUAKE. MT. FUJI MAY WELL ERUPT.

FOR THE SAKE OF THE **WORLD** AND THE UNDERWORLD, THESE TREASURES MUST BE **RECOVERED.** IF IT **KILLS** HIM... *C'EST LA GUERRE.*

HURRY BACK AND **TELL** HIM THAT, BOTAN!!

SO YUSUKE HAS ONE WEEK! **ONE!!**

王

Jr

BAM

MEANWHILE, IN THE HUMAN WORLD...

...WE CAN PERPETRATE SOME DELICIOUS **NASTINESS** HERE IN THE HUMAN WORLD.

HA HA HA, WITH THE THREE GREAT DARK TREASURES WE STOLE FROM THE UNDERWORLD...

THIS **CONJURING BLADE** CAN TURN ANY HUMAN IT CUTS INTO A DEMON.

GÔKI'S **RAPACIOUS ORB** SUCKS HUMAN SOULS.

...

AND KURAMA HOLDS THE MIRROR OF DARKNESS, WHICH EMITS GREAT POWER UNDER THE FULL MOON.

WHICH I'LL FEED WITH THE SOULS I'LL SUCK WITH THIS ORB.

I CAN CREATE AN ARMY OF MAN-EATING BEASTS WITH THIS SWORD...

HUH?!

WELL, YOU GUYS HAVE FUN.

THAT'S RIGHT.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? ARE YOU BAILING OUT ON US?!

DON'T THINK YOU CAN JUST WALK OFF WITH A **SPLIT** OF THE **LOOT.**

GIVE US THAT MIRROR.

WIMP. YOU'VE GONE **SOFT** SINCE YOU'VE STARTED LIVING AMONG THE HUMANS.

I'LL KEEP IT, THANKS. I NEED IT FOR SOMETHING.

SLAM

YOU ALWAYS HAD A SMART MOUTH...

GO AHEAD, BOZO!!

...AND IT'S BEEN ASKING FOR THIS!!

WHO ARE YOU?!

HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE TREASURES?!

DIDN'T THINK I'D FIND YOU SO SOON.

shkk

HOW ABOUT THIS: I TAKE ALL THREE TREASURES...

...AND YOU GUYS SAVE ME SOME TROUBLE BY TAKING EACH OTHER OUT.

I'M YUSUKE URAMESHI, THE UNDERWORLD DETECTIVE, AND YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

GET THIS, CLOWNS!

MUST BE THEIR NEW BOUNTY HUNTER...!

UNDERWORLD DETECTIVE?

IF YOU ARE TROUBLE, IT'LL KEEP!!

spring

WHOA! HE **JUMPED** CLEAR OUTTA HERE!

AND HIS DEFENSES ARE PITIFUL. YOU COULD OFF THIS GUY WITH ONE STROKE.

OKAY... THEY'RE NOT IMPRESSED...

STRANGE... HE EMANATES NO POWER TO SPEAK OF.

STILL, THE UNDERWORLD CHOSE HIM FOR THIS. HE'S ARROGANT ENOUGH... AND MAY HAVE HIDDEN QUALITIES.

LOOM

YOU HOLD IT.

WON'T TAKE **THREE** OF US TO DEAL WITH YOU.

HEY! **HOLD IT!**

shuff

I'D BEST AVOID TROUBLE MYSELF.

YOU'VE GOT NERVE,

BUT DON'T EXPECT THAT TO HELP YOU.

YIKES ...THIS GUY'S BUILT LIKE A TANK!

THEY WANT TO RUN OFF, FINE, BUT I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE.

IF YOU WANT THE LOOT, COME AND GET IT. HEH.



THAT MUST BE THE RAPACIOUS ORB...

...A QUICK SNACK.

BUT FIRST...

SWUH

SLOORP

IT SUCKS HUMAN SOULS FROM THEIR BODIES.

THIS IS A VERY USEFUL ITEM...

AND THERE WAS THE CARCASS TO DISPOSE OF AFTERWARDS.

THAT IMPARTS AN OFF FLAVOR.

I EAT SOULS, BUT I ALWAYS HAD TO RIP THEIR BODIES APART TO GET AT THEM.

SLUUP

NO MUSS, NO FUSS, AND I CAN HAVE AS MANY AS I WANT.

BUT WITH THIS ORB, THE SOUL COMES OUT FRESH AND SWEET.

I BET I KNOW WHERE THAT SOUL CAME FROM!

FRESH TODAY, YOU BET.

HEY, THAT KID JUST COLLAPSED...!!

HE SICK OR SOMETHING?

HOLD THE PHONE...

GULP

SLOORB

NOW... DOWN THE HATCH!

A CHILD'S SOUL IS BEST SWALLOWED LIVE. HEE HEE.

HOW IT TWITCHES AND WRIGGLES IN MY STOMACH.

!!!

MONSTER !!

WAH

SPIT IT OUT!!
SPIT IT OUT!!

WHAM

BAM

ptui

GLURG!!

SLURP

HMPH.
LAID OUT COLD.
SOME DEMON.

THU

THE SOUL SEEMS TO BE OKAY...

SPROING

!!

I KNOW HOW BAD I HIT YOU. YOU SHOULD BARELY BE ABLE TO STAND UP...

AND YOU TALK PRETTY GOOD FOR A DEMON.

YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD FOR A HUMAN...

THAT SO?!

CRICKLE

CRACKLE

HA HA HAAAH.

?!

URK...

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

SOUL-SUCKING ONI
A DEMON THAT DELIGHTS IN FEEDING ON HUMAN SOULS, SOMETIMES AFTER DISMEMBERING THE BODY. THIS TYPE IN PARTICULAR IS EQUIPPED TO TEAR VICTIMS— AND OPPONENTS— LIMB FROM LIMB.

HOLY CHEESE ON RYE!!

!!

WHOOSH

SMASH

UNH!

CRIPES! HE'S A FULL-BLOWN MONSTER!!

I'M SCREWED! I DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST A THING LIKE THAT!

YOU'RE QUICK ON YOUR FEET TOO, HA HA HA.

CRACK

CRACK

I WASTED IT ON IWAMOTO!!

...YOU GET ONLY ONE SHOT A DAY...

CRAP!!

I HAVE THE SPIRIT GUN...

WAIT!!

I-IT'S NOT GLOWING.

...?!

THE BEST WAY TO ENJOY A NICE, FRESH SOUL...

...IS TO SEASON IT WITH PAIN AND FEAR.

SIZZLE

I AM SO DEAD!!



# CHAPTER 21: THE MUNCHER OF SOULS!!

GOKI, A SOUL-EATING OGRE AND ONE OF THREE THIEVES WHO STOLE THREE GREAT TREASURES FROM THE UNDERWORLD!!

YUSUKE HESITATES. HE MUST RECOVER THE TREASURE HELD BY GOKI, BUT THE DEMON IS FAR MORE **POWERFUL** THAN HE'D EXPECTED!

SIDLE SIDLE

SIMPLE — I CAN'T!!

HOW DO I FIGHT A CREATURE WHO CAN SNAP A TREE IN HALF!!

YOU'LL PAY FOR IT, HUMAN!

WITH YOUR LIFE!

YOU DARE TO INTRUDE ON MY FEEDING?

SHUM

# Chapter 21:
# THE MUNCHER OF SOULS!

GURF!

THMP THMP THMP

THWACK

HARF... HUCK!

AND I TURNED AWAY FROM THE BLOW...!!

I FORGET HOW FRAGILE HUMANS ARE.

UNF!

UNF!

SCRIT SCRIT

OOPS, THAT WAS A BIT ROUGH.

A BIT OF FUN FOR ME, A LOT OF PAIN FOR YOU, THEN YOU DIE.

I'D LIKE YOU TO SUFFER FOR A WHILE.

UNH!

WRITHING, GROANING... GOOD!

GROPE GROPE

...NO USE... CAN'T MOVE!!

!!

YO! WE GOT A FIRE AND LOTSA BEER! COME OVER TO OUR CAMP!

RUSTLE

HEY GUYS, SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S OVER THERE!

TH-THAT VOICE...!

I'M NOT IN THE MOOD.

DAMN PARTIERS. HEADING THIS WAY.

DAMN...

...D-DAMN HIM...

TAKE HEED OF THIS **LESSON**, HUMAN, AND DON'T **BOTHER US** AGAIN!

THAT IS, IF YOU VALUE YOUR **LIFE!**

SHIMMER

SPROING

WAAH!!

GUH... HUH?

TRUP TRUP TRUP

I'M... BACK HOME.

YUSUKE! YOU'RE AWAKE!

OKAY, OKAY, STOP CRYING!! SHEE...

YOU JUST GOT BACK FROM THE DEAD! STOP MAKING ME **WORRY** SO MUCH!

WAAAAAAAAH

IT WOULD'VE BEEN WORSE, EXCEPT FOR THAT VOICE...

OW!

YOU NUMBSKULL! YOU CAME HOME A TOTAL MESS!! DID YOU PICK A FIGHT WITH A PRO WRESTLER OR SOMETHING!?

BONK

OH, YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?

IT WAS YOU, BOTAN! I KNEW IT!

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

DETECTIVE TOOLS PART 2: DEMONIC AURA-METER

A COMPASS THAT INDICATES DIRECTION AND DISTANCE TO A NEARBY DEMON. THE MORE POWERFUL THE USER, THE BETTER ITS RANGE.

I USED THIS COMPASS TO LOCATE YOU.

I WAS ALONE, TOO...GOOD THING GOKI DIDN'T COME OVER!

THAT GUY'S TOUGHER THAN I CAN EVER HOPE TO BE...

LOOK BOTAN, THIS SITUATION'S TOTALLY SCREWY.

...IN JUST ONE WEEK.

I KNOW, AND THE OTHER TWO ARE MORE POWERFUL YET. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME IT'S UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT YOU TO WRAP THIS UP...

?

HUH... THAT'S JUST THE NEXT TOWN OVER. CREEPY...

RESIDENTS ARE ADVISED TO BE ALERT FOR ANY UNUSUAL...

...

INVESTIGATORS ARE CHECKING THE POSSIBILITY OF A POISONOUS GAS LEAK...

...FOUR CHILDREN IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD HAVE FALLEN INTO MYSTERIOUS COMAS AND HAVE HAD TO BE HOSPITALIZED.

MITSUBICHI

YES. CHILDREN ARE HIS FAVORITES.

THIS GOKI ATE THEIR SOULS, RIGHT?

WITH THE RAPACIOUS ORB HE CAN EAT WITH COMPLETE ABANDON. **NO CHILD IS SAFE!**

HE CAN GO FOR YEARS WITHOUT SUSTENANCE, BUT ONCE HIS APPETITE'S ROUSED, HE PRETTY MUCH GOES INTO A **FEEDING FRENZY.**

ALL RIGHTY THEN!!

HEY! WHATTAYA THINK YOU'RE GONNA DO?!

THUMP

A DAY... AT MOST.

HOW LONG CAN A SOUL LAST ONCE HE'S SWALLOWED IT?

*HOW IT TWITCHES AND WRIGGLES IN MY STOMACH.*

I'VE GOT NO **CHOICE!**

**IN YOUR CONDITION?!**

I'M GONNA KICK HIS ASS!

THIS SOUL-EATING BUSINESS SOUNDS BAD. ONCE YOUR SOUL IS EATEN YOU CAN'T GO TO HEAVEN OR GET REINCARNATED, RIGHT? SO LET ME GUESS...

YOU LOSE YOUR FEELINGS, YOUR MEMORIES, WHO YOU ARE... EVERYTHING. MEANING THESE POOR KIDS ARE JUST SPIT OUTTA LUCK UNLESS I PUT A **STOP** TO IT!

WHAP

YUSUKE...

THIS TIME I HAVE THE REI GUN,* SO TODAY I CAN'T LOSE.

* REI = JAPANESE FOR "SPIRIT"

...BUT THE SITUATION'S DESPERATE. THIS WILL GIVE YOU A SURGE OF POWER, BUT ONLY AS A LAST RESORT.

ONCE YOU USE IT, YOU'LL BE DOWN FOR THE COUNT. IF YOU MISS, CONSIDER IT OVER.

DETECTIVE TOOLS PART 3: AURA BOOSTER RING

A DEVICE CAPABLE OF INCREASING THE POWER OF THE REI GUN. HOWEVER, ITS ENERGY AND AURA REQUIREMENTS ARE HIGH.

I DIDN'T INTEND TO GIVE YOU THIS UNTIL LATER, AFTER YOU'VE HAD MORE EXPERIENCE...

GUESS WE'LL FIND OUT, BOTAN.

...TO EVEN DENT GOKI'S STEEL-HARD SKIN.

EVEN SO, I DON'T KNOW THAT IT WILL BE NEARLY ENOUGH...

BEEP BEEP BEEP

SURGE

I ESTIMATE THAT AT YOUR CURRENT CAPABILITY IT WILL ONLY HAVE A RANGE OF ABOUT 500 METERS.

GIVE ME THE COMPASS. I'VE GOTTA GO FIND HIM.

300 METERS TO THE NORTH!!

HOLY CRAP! HE'S CLOSE!!

...

ROLL

THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE HE COULD BE!

THAT SCUMBAG'S STALKING THE PLAYGROUND!!

...AND SINCE YOU DID ME A FAVOR, I'LL HELP YOU WITH THAT USELESS SOUL.

THANKS. IT SURE IS...

HERE'S YOUR BALL!

IT'S REAL PRETTY!

ZHUMMM

?!

PLOP

THIS ONE LOOKS TASTY...

HEH HEH HEH.

WE'VE GOT UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

YOU...

WUH!

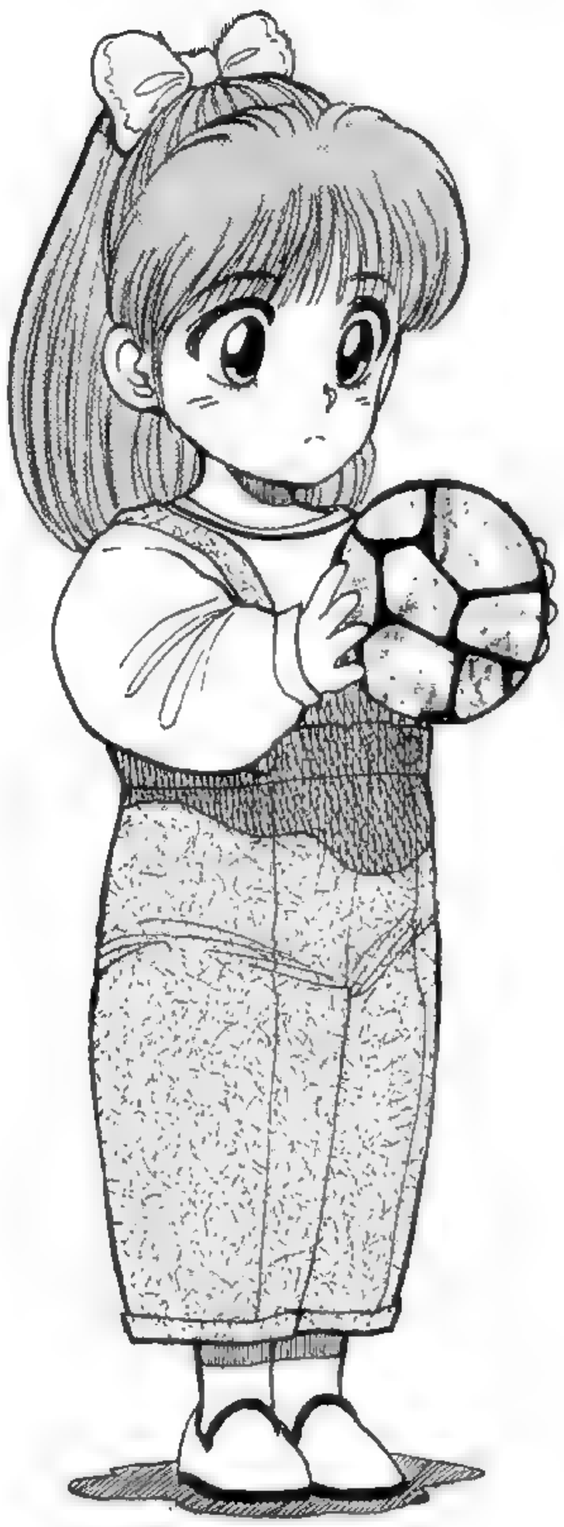
GOKI!!

YOU'RE BECOMING TIRESOME.

SO, THAT BEATING YOU TOOK YESTERDAY WASN'T ENOUGH?

# RUMBLE

YEAH, WELL, I GUESS I'M STUPID THAT WAY.



THUD

THIS IS THE LAST MEAL OF MINE YOU'LL INTERRUPT.

I'LL DEVOUR YOU WHOLE, BODY AND SOUL.

GOTTA PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS.

AUGH!

FOR A DETECTIVE, YOU SURE DON'T RESEARCH YOUR OPPONENTS!

MY BODY'S TOUGH AS STEEL. IT'D BLUNT A SWORD.

HM

...!!

THUD

CRACK

YIKES!

UMPH

HEY NOW...!!

KAWAM

RAMMING SPEED!!

?!

YOU JUST DON'T GET IT.

GRIP

HEH.

WHACK

IT'S OVER.

MAYBE HIS **EYES**... BUT I COULD ONLY GET ONE, AND IT WOULD HAVE TO BE AT SUCH CLOSE RANGE...

DAMMIT, MY ONLY CHANCE IS THE **REI GUN**... BUT AS BOTAN SAID, IT MAY NOT BE ENOUGH...

NOW... DIE.

SAID YOUR PRAYERS YET?

WAIT... **CLOSE UP?! THAT'S IT!**

WOBBLE

OOG...!

HUNH!!

WHUM

KOFF!

STOMP

MMM, THAT TONE IN YOUR VOICE...

YAAH!!

STOMP

...DRIPPING WITH FEAR AND PAIN. MAKES MY MOUTH WATER! SMACK!

MY...HOW YOUR SPINE CREAKS AS IT'S ABOUT TO SNAP IN TWO.

BEAUTIFUL SOUND, ISN'T IT?

CRUNCKLE CRACK

...!!

UNNGH!

SNAP

RUH... RUN!

NOW! MOVE IT!

AAH! A MONSTER!!

A WITNESS.

WHIP

UNH...

THUD

YIPES!

A SOUL STEEPED IN DELICIOUS FEAR...

HA HA, I'M DELIGHTED, ACTUALLY. SO YOUNG, AND DEEPLY TERRIFIED.

CHUTTER

LET HIM GO!!

NUH...NO! NO WAY!

UNH!

PIPE DOWN. YOU'RE NEXT.

ZHOOP

YAAH!

AH!

YUH!

...!!

BURP.

YOU'LL SOON JOIN THE BOY'S SOUL IN MY STOMACH.

...

AND YOU... YOU'RE STILL DEFIANT, EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN'T MOVE.

TIME TO...

YOUR SOUL MUST BE WELL MARINATED BY NOW.

YANK

GGHH ...!

SO PUNY, YET SO TROUBLE-SOME.

GRAAHH

...DINE!!!

CRUNCH

GUCK?!

I WAS JUST WAITING...

YOU MAY BE HARD AS STEEL OUTSIDE, BUT...

...CAN YOUR **INSIDES** HANDLE A REALLY **SIZZLIN'** DISH?

GUH...

...

GWAH?!

...FOR YOU TO **OPEN** YOUR **BIG MOUTH.**

EAT THIS!!

KRAZZZAK

THUD...

WIIOOO

WIN

NOW, DON'T GO TELLING ANYONE...

RELAX, KID! WE WERE SHOOTING A SCENE FOR A MOVIE!

BUH... WUH...

OBOY...

PHEW... ALL PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR...

1, 2, 3...

UH... YEAH!

...GOT IT?

TWO MORE TO GO... HOW THE HECK WILL I MANAGE IT?

ALL THIS TO RETRIEVE ONE TREASURE.

tremble

SHEESH.

I'M GOIN' HOME AND GETTIN' TO BED.

JEEZ, I'M A COMPLETE WRECK.

BEEP BEEP

!!

STAGGER

SHUDDER

...BUT IF HE DOES, I'M IN NO SHAPE TO FIGHT HIM!!

IT'S LIKE THEY'RE **SEEKING** ME OUT! MAYBE HE WON'T ATTACK IN THE MIDDLE OF A CROWD...

THE COMPASS HAS PICKED UP ANOTHER DEMON!

200 METERS... 150... IT'S GETTING **CLOSER!!**

# CHAPTER 22: WHAT BINDS A MOTHER AND SON!!

# Chapter 22:
# WHAT BINDS A MOTHER AND SON!!

UH OH! THAT'S HIM!!

...

NO NEED TO BRISTLE LIKE THAT.

I'M NOT HERE TO FIGHT... OR RUN.

IN FACT, I NEED A FAVOR...

IT'S GOT TO BE A TRICK.

OUCH.

HE'S A CRIMINAL.

FAVOR?

*GIVE ME THREE DAYS. THEN I'LL RETURN IT.*

I MEAN...

WHOEVER LOOKS IN THAT MIRROR WILL SEE HIS OR HER DEEPEST DESIRE REVEALED.

THE MIRROR WILL THEN GRANT THAT DESIRE, IF SOMETHING IS OFFERED IN RETURN, THOUGH WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS.

...THE FULL MOON IS IN THREE DAYS.

THAT'S WHEN KURAMA'S TREASURE, THE MIRROR OF DARKNESS, IS AT ITS MOST POTENT.

...

I'LL BET THAT'S WHAT KURAMA AIMS TO FIND OUT IN THE NEXT 3 DAYS!

...HE'S NOT ALL THAT EVIL.

TALKING TO HIM, I GOT THIS FEELING THAT...

YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT! HIS FRIEND NEARLY **KILLED** YOU!!

WHAT?!

AH... GOOD QUESTION.

WHY DID HE COME TO ME, THEN? I'M IN NO SHAPE TO STOP HIM.

...BUT HE AND HIS "FRIENDS" WERE NOT EXACTLY GETTING ALONG.

LOOK, I DIDN'T TELL YOU BEFORE...

SOMETHING COULDA HAPPENED TO CHANGE HIS MIND... SOMETHING IMPORTANT.

MAYBE IT'S JUST ME, BUT WHAT I SAW IN HIS EYES MADE ME BELIEVE HIM.

KURAMA WANTED OUT OF WHATEVER PACT THEY HAD.

I DIDN'T FIND OUT WHY.

...

SO SERIOUS YOU CAN'T SHARE IT WITH YOUR **MOTHER**?!

I THOUGHT WE WERE TRYIN' TO GET AWAY FROM THIS COMEDY STUFF!

MA, WE'RE HAVING A SERIOUS DISCUSSION HERE.

BOTAN, YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN US.

YUSUKE, **DINNER'S** READY!

FEH! I'M NOT TWO-TIMING **ANYBODY!**

?

THIS NEW FRIEND OF YOURS IS QUITE PRETTY, Y'KNOW. IF YOU'RE TWO-TIMING KEIKO...

UH, THANKS.

...

SKITTLE

COOL! MAYBE SOMEONE'S CALLING ME OUT!

DEE~

UH...URAMESHI, YOU'RE WANTED AT THE SCHOOL GATE.

THREE DAYS LATER...

!

EH?

TODAY I'M TO RETURN THE TREASURE.

OH, RIGHT.

TOTALLY NOT DETECTIVE MATERIAL. o O

WOO... DID THAT SLIP MY MIND!

HUH? KURAMA!!

YEP.

MEET...?

BEFORE I DO, THERE'S SOMEONE I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET.

ROOM 501
MINAMINO A
B
NAKAYAMA GENERAL HOSPITAL
...HERE?
MOM?!
EASY, MOM. DON'T GET UP.
...YOU'VE BROUGHT A FRIEND. HOW NICE.
OH MY...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'M FEELING MUCH BETTER TODAY.
...
AS YOU LIKE, SHUICHI. TSK, YOU'RE WORSE THAN THE DOCTORS.
MOM, YOU HAVE TO EAT...
...OR YOU'LL NEVER GET BETTER!
SHALL I PEEL AN APPLE FOR YOU?
MAYBE LATER, DEAR...

DEMONS... HAVE MOTHERS?!

?

?

?

?

BY A DECEPTION THAT'S LASTED FOR 15 YEARS. I'M ACTUALLY A YÔ-KO— AN ENCHANTED FOX.

...AND SHE DID GIVE BIRTH TO ME, SORT OF.

IT'S COMPLICATED. TO HER, I'M SHUICHI...

HOW COULD SHE "SORT OF" DO THAT?

## YÔ-KO

(LATIN NAME: VULPUS MIRUS)
A FOX OF GREAT AGE THAT HAS ATTAINED SUPERNATURAL POWERS. THE MOST FAMOUS SUBSPECIES HAS 9 TAILS. PRIMARY ABILITIES: SHAPE-SHIFTING AND CASTING ILLUSIONS.

MY SPECIALTY WAS UNDOING SEALS AND CODES AND STEALING THE ANCIENT TREASURES AND WEAPONS THEY SECURED.

BUT MY LUCK RAN OUT AND I RAN AFOUL OF A POWERFUL BOUNTY HUNTER. BADLY INJURED, I ASSUMED SOUL FORM AND ESCAPED INTO THE HUMAN WORLD.

THAT, AT LEAST, WAS THE PLAN...

IN 10 YEARS OR SO MY POWERS WOULD RETURN AND MY BODY BECOME FULLY INHUMAN, AT WHICH POINT I'D LEAVE THE FAMILY.

I WAS TOO WEAK TO SHIFT INTO HUMAN FORM OR POSSESS A BODY, SO THERE WAS ONLY ONE OPTION: ENTER AN EMBRYO BEFORE IT ACQUIRED A PROPER SOUL.

...

IT DIDN'T WORK OUT?

I'M HOME.

HOW WAS SCHOOL, SHUICHI?

SIX YEARS OLD... THAT DAY EVERYTHING CHANGED...

I'LL GET YOU ONE OFF OF THE TOP CABINET.

OKAY. I NEED A LARGE CAN FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS.

YEAH... THEY LOOKED OLD.

YOU SAW THE SCARS ON HER ARMS?

CLINK CLINK

LET'S SEE...

WOBBLE

NAH, I CAN GET IT MYSELF.

WOBBLE

SHUICHI!!

NO!!

CRASH

!

SLASH

A...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SHUICHI...?

I KEPT SEEING THOSE SCARS, THAT SMILE... I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO DO IT.

SMILE

MOM!

OH...

UNH...

THE SCARS REMAINED.
I TRIED TO LEAVE MANY TIMES,
BUT MY FATHER HAD DIED LONG
BEFORE AND SHE WOULD HAVE
BEEN ALL ALONE...

IT SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE
FOR A CREATURE WITH A DEMON HEART,
BUT WHEN SHE BECAME GRAVELY ILL
ALL DOUBT VANISHED -
I WAS A SON WHO LOVED HIS MOTHER.

NOW, SHE HAS MAYBE A MONTH TO LIVE.

ONCE THAT'S DONE, I'LL RETURN IT AND SURRENDER MYSELF.

I CAN SAVE HER WITH THIS MIRROR, YUSUKE. THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS TO ME.

ONCE SHE'S WELL...

...SHE'LL ACTUALLY BE BETTER OFF **WITHOUT** ME.

SHE'S BEEN SEEING SOMEONE.

HE'S THE PRESIDENT OF A SMALL COMPANY WHERE SHE'S WORKED PART-TIME.

NOT QUITE.

BUT...THAT WILL REALLY LEAVE HER ALL ALONE.

...

WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS?

MAYBE I NEEDED TO BARE MY SOUL TO SOMEONE...

...WHO WAS WILLING TO **TRUST** ME.



COME **QUICKLY**!! IT'S YOUR MOTHER!!

THERE YOU ARE, SHUICHI!!

!

...

SHE'S IN CRITICAL CONDITION... SHE MAY NOT PULL THROUGH!

HUFF HUFF

SHE'S TAKEN A SUDDEN TURN FOR THE WORSE.

YOU'LL... USE THE MIRROR?!

!

THAT'S IT. I HAVE TO DO THIS.

...

WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN, BUT...HER CHANCES AREN'T GOOD.

THE NEXT 24 HOURS WILL TELL.

YES...

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS?

I'VE HEARD THAT TO GRANT YOUR WISH, IT REQUIRES SOMETHING FROM YOU IN RETURN.

...YOUR LIFE.

THIS DEMONIC DEVICE TAKES YOUR LIFE AT THE VERY MOMENT YOUR WISH IS GRANTED.

THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED THE MIRROR OF DARKNESS. OBVIOUSLY, NO ONE EVER POSSESSES IT FOR LONG.

!

LET YOUR FACE SHOW MY DESIRE, THAT I MAY INVOKE YOUR POWER.

MIRROR OF DARKNESS, AWAKEN IN THE MOONLIGHT.

# MAMA

YES.

I MEAN, YOUR LIFE FOR **HERS**? IS THAT THE BEST DEAL AVAILABLE?

HEY, MEBBE YOU'D BETTER **THINK** ABOUT THIS!

..IS THAT WHAT YOU ASK ME TO GRANT?

THIS WOMAN'S HEALTH AND HAPPINESS...

YOU WOULD SACRIFICE YOUR LIFE FOR THIS WOMAN'S HAPPINESS?

YOU ARE SURE?

IT IS, BELIEVE ME.

..IS MY COMMAND!

THEN YOUR WISH...

IF THAT WOULD MAKE ANY AMENDS FOR MY SINS...

...AND FOR **DECEIVING** HER THESE PAST 15 YEARS...

UNH!

ZZZZIK

ZZZZAK

WHAT?!

ARE YOU INSANE?!

MIRROR! LISTEN UP! TAKE SOME OF MY LIFE!!

THAT WAY YOU WON'T HAVE TO TAKE ALL OF HIS, RIGHT?!

WHAT ARE –?!

?!

SHOOP

...

NO WOMAN SHOULD SUFFER SUCH AGONY...

YOU EVER SEE A MOTHER DESPAIRING OVER HER LOST CHILD?

# FLASH

UH...

!

...

HEAD POUNDING... BROW SWEATING... BUT ALIVE.

UH... OWW.

...

...IN SPITE OF MYSELF. MAN...

LOOKS LIKE I'M STILL AMONG THE LIVING...

MOM!!

MMF!

I'M... I'M ALIVE...

THE MIRROR... DID IT... IS SHE ...?!

BUT... WOULD I STILL BE CALLED THE MIRROR OF DARKNESS IF MORE PEOPLE WHO MADE WISHES HAD BEEN LIKE YOU...?

MY, SOME PEOPLE DO JUMP IN WITHOUT THINKING...

ONE LAST TREASURE TO RECOVER, NOW. I HOPE HIS MOM'S OKAY.

IT LOOKS LIKE... SHE'LL BE OKAY!

SHUICHI...!!

THE WILL TO LIVE NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME.

BETTER THAN OKAY. I ANTICIPATE A FULL RECOVERY!

...

ARE YOU THERE...?

SHU... ICHI...

MOM...

SHUICHI...

...I'M RIGHT HERE. I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

THAT'S A PROMISE...!

...

WOW, WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?

MA, I'LL MAKE DINNER FOR YOU TONIGHT.

MMF, THERE YOU ARE.

I'M HOME.

MUNCH MUNCH

THAT'S IT! NO MORE HIGH-END DEMONS FOR PARTNERS!

KURAMA SUCCUMBED TO INANE SENTIMENT.

-NO.4

GOKI MADE A FATAL MISTAKE AT THE LAST MINUTE.

WITH THIS SWORD I'LL CREATE AN ARMY OF MONSTERS THAT WILL *LISTEN TO ME* AND *OBEY* ME!

SWIPE

I'LL MAKE SURE MY NEXT ALLIES ARE... *TRUSTWORTHY.*

BUT FIRST, I WANT THE OTHER TWO DARK TREASURES, AND *YUSUKE URAMESHI'S HEAD ON A SPIT!!*

## *THE CONJURING BLADE*

AN INSIDIOUS WEAPON CRAFTED FROM A TOXIC STONE. ANYONE CUT BY THIS BLADE IS CURSED AND TURNS INTO A DEMON.

# CHAPTER 23: HIEI OF THE EVIL EYE!

# Chapter 23: HIEI OF THE EVIL EYE!!




*PNEUMATHERAPY, ALSO KNOWN AS "SPIRIT HEALING"

A GOOD ASSISTANT SHOULD BE PROFICIENT IN PNEUMAPATHIC MEDICINE.

THAT POUNDING **SHOULD'VE** PUT ME DOWN FOR TWO **WEEKS.**

GOKI BEAT ME TO A PULP, BUT TWO DAYS LATER I'M GOOD AS NEW!

NOTHING FANCY, JUST BASIC WESTERN WHITE MAGIC.

I LOOK GOOD, THOUGH, DON'T I?

UH... YEAH. AND WHAT'S WITH THE **UNIFORM?** YOU'RE NOT A STUDENT HERE.

FUNNY... BOTAN EARNS HER LIVING FORTUNETELLING, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE **LIVES**... OR HOW **OLD** SHE IS.

SERIOUSLY, IT'S **CAMOUFLAGE.** IT'D BE CONSPICUOUS TO MEET YOU AT SCHOOL IN STREET CLOTHES.

MY **ASSISTANT'S** MORE OF A MYSTERY THAN MY **FOES.**

A GOOD ASSISTANT'S DUTY IS TO THINK OF SUCH THINGS.

BY THE WAY, I HEAR KURAMA MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE.

GOOD. ONE LAST TREASURE TO RECOVER, THEN, AND THREE DAYS TO DO IT.

THE LAST THIEF'S SOME RUNT CALLED HIEI, RIGHT?

HE'S CLEARLY **REFORMED**, AND READILY ACCOUNTS FOR HIMSELF.

DON'T LET SIZE FOOL YOU. I HEAR HE'S **PARTICULARLY VICIOUS**, AND WON'T LET ANYTHING STAND IN THE WAY OF WHATEVER HE'S AFTER.

CREAK

I KNEW YOU WERE HERE!

YOU'RE LOITERING AROUND AND HAVEN'T TURNED IN YOUR HOMEWORK!

MR. TAKENAKA WANTS TO SEE YOU RIGHT NOW! HE'S REALLY **STEAMED!**

HA HA, THE JOYS OF BEING A HERO.

GLINT

WHO CARES? I'M **BUSY!**

CAN'T I GET ANY PRIVACY?

ER...

I... UM...

WHO ARE YOU?

NICE TO MEET YOU IN PERSON AT LONG LAST!

HIYA KEIKO! QUITE A TIME YOU'VE HAD WITH OUR BOY YUSUKE, EH?!

HUH?

OH... RIGHT.

AREN'T YOU FORGETTING ONE TEENSY THING...

OW! THAT HURT!

...ABOUT NOT BEING CONSPICUOUS?!

KNOCK IT OFF!!

BONK

WE SHOULD GET TOGETHER OVER A CUPPA TEA AND...

TOO LATE TO FORGET...

THAT IDIOT! NOW SHE'S DONE IT!

???

LATER...?

I'LL VAMOOSE. JUST FORGET I WAS HERE.

HEE HEE HEE

GOT A BIT CARRIED AWAY.

LATER, YUSUKE!

I CAN EXPLAIN... EVENTUALLY!

YEAH... WELL, I MEAN, IT'S A **LOOOONG** STORY.

NEW **FRIEND** OF YOURS?

FINE, THEN. NOW GO SEE MR. TAKENAKA!

WAIT UP...

I CAN TELL YOU'RE **REALLY** NOT HAPPY WITH THAT ANSWER.

IS THAT SO?

ABOUT WHAT?

I REALLY DON'T CARE.

YES! SHE **TOLD** YOU **HERSELF!** LOOK, I CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING...

SO HER NAME'S BOTAN?

ABOUT **BOTAN,** THAT'S WHAT.

ABOUT 10KM AWAY...

KEIKO YUKIMURA... YUSUKE URAMESHI'S CLASSMATE AND CHILDHOOD FRIEND.

SHE'S VERY **IMPORTANT** TO HIM.

MINION DEMON

...

THIS GIRL PRESENTS... **POSSIBILITIES.**

HMM... I COULD JUST KILL HIM AND TAKE THE TREASURE, BUT WHAT **FUN** IS THAT?

SEE IF I CARE.

FINE, WHATEVER.

...IT'S A **LOOOONG** STORY.

...

SWING

HUH?

SWISH

HOO BOY, A DEMON... AT 5 KILO-METERS?!

BEEP BEEP BEEP

!!

YES! HIEI HAS SHOWN HIS HAND ALREADY!

BOTAN! YOU SAW?

I KNOW, MR. TAKE, BUT SOMETHING'S **COME UP!**

URAMESHI! WE'RE IN THE **MIDDLE** OF **CLASS!**

CLICK

A TRICK LIKE THAT REQUIRES **MAJOR** DEMONIC POWERS!!

HE'S NOT HIDING! HE **WANTS** YOU TO KNOW WHERE HE IS!

AT **MY** LEVEL OF POWER, THE COMPASS SHOULDN'T DETECT ANYTHING MORE THAN 500 METERS AWAY.

WAIT, THIS IS WEIRD...

...THAT HE'S **TAKEN KEIKO**, AND WILL LET HER GO IN **EXCHANGE** FOR THE OTHER TWO TREASURES!

THAT'S NOT ALL! HE SENT ME A TELEPATHIC MESSAGE...

!!

KEIKO?!

NO.3

NO.4

DA DA DA

COME OUT, HIEI, YOU SCUMBAG!!

I'M HERE FOR KEIKO! COME OUT!!

DOOP

TROMP TROMP

!?

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR GOONS!!

BRING 'EM ON! I'LL **PULVERIZE** 'EM!!

DEMONS, HUMAN ZOMBIES... DOESN'T MATTER!

C'MON, CREEP! **SHOW** YOURSELF!!

OH MY... THESE ARE JUST **ORDINARY PEOPLE** UNDER **MIND CONTROL.**

FF FT

HE DOES.

!!

DOES HIEI HAVE USE OF THE **EVIL EYE?**

HE'S CONTROLLING SO MANY AT **ONCE...**

UP CLOSE, I SEE YOU'RE JUST A **WEEDY NOTHING.** IT MAKES ME FURIOUS TO THINK HOW MUCH **TROUBLE** YOU'VE BEEN!

YET YOU'RE THE "OFFICIAL" UNDERWORLD DETECTIVE, HUH? BIG DEAL. YOU DON'T STAND A **CHANCE** AGAINST ME.

SQUEAK

SQUEAK

## THE EVIL EYE

EXERTS CONTROL OVER LESSER DEMONS, GHOSTS, AND HUMANS AT A MERE GLANCE. ALSO ENDOWED WITH CLAIRVOYANCE.

INTERESTING... YOU'RE STILL **SANE** AFTER A LOOK AT MY EVIL EYE. GUESS YOU HAVE **SOME** SPIRITUAL FORTITUDE.

MUST BE WHAT THE UNDERWORLD'S **COUNTING** ON.

KEIKO!!

THE GAME'S ONLY WORTH PLAYING IF YOU FOLLOW THE RULES.

WHY, SURE. NO PROBLEM.

HERE'RE THE TREASURES! **RELEASE** KEIKO!!

**SHUT UP!** LET'S GET DOWN TO **BUSINESS!**

**IDIOTS**



THEY'RE THE REAL THING.

YOU'RE A **BIGGER MORON** THAN YOU **LOOK!**

THINK SO? HA!

HEH HEH, I **WAS** GOING TO DO AWAY WITH GOKI AND KURAMA MYSELF, AND TAKE THEIR TREASURES.

THIS WAY, YOU'VE SAVED ME THE TROUBLE.

WE DID THE DEAL! NOW ALL BETS ARE OFF!!

SWIFT

?!

I'LL HAVE YOUR ASS AND THE TREASURES!!

WHERE'D HE GO?!

WHERE IS HE?!

JUST OVER HERE. IT WAS AN EASY DODGE.

FWIT!

...BUT WHO LOOKS MORONIC **NOW**, EH?!

YOU CALLED ME A MORON...

...I THOUGHT I **HAD** HIM! NEVER SEEN SUCH **SPEED!!**

DAMN...

SO THAT'S YOUR IDEA OF A **SURPRISE ATTACK?**

NO SURPRISE HOW **SLUGGISH** IT WAS.

YOU IDIOT! TAKE A LOOK AT HER **FOREHEAD!**

DID YOU THINK I'D **JUST GIVE THE GIRL BACK IN A STRAIGHT SWAP?!**

HA HA HA, I RETURNED HER, AS PROMISED...

HUH?!

SOME KIND OF **GASH,** BUT... **NO BLOOD?!**

...BUT HER **FATE** IS IN MY **HANDS!!**

THAT'S NO GASH! IT'S... AN EYE!!

DOOM

BWEH

THIS EYE...

...IT'S TRYING TO OPEN!!

ONCE THAT EYE OPENS **FULLY**, SHE'LL BE A **DEMON** UNDER MY THRALL!

HA HA! SHE'LL HAVE THE **HONOR** OF BEING MY **FIRST SLAVE!**

NO WAY!!

GRIP

GRIP GRIP

WP

TAKE HIEI **DOWN**, YUSUKE...

UNH... I'LL **TRY** TO HOLD THIS BACK.

RRGH

BUT WITHOUT HOLY WATER TO HELP HER, THE **TOLL** IT'S TAKING ON HER MUST BE **INCREDIBLE!**

SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO **SUSTAIN** SUCH EFFORT FOR LONG.

YOUR FRIEND CAN **SUPPRESS** DEMONIFICATION? WITHOUT **HOLY WATER?!**

I'VE RARELY **SEEN** SUCH SOPHISTICATED WHITE MAGIC!

IT'S SAPPING MY **SPIRIT ENERGY** AWAY!

UNH... HE'S RIGHT...

OKAY, NOW WE CAN GET **DOWN TO IT!** A LIFE-OR-DEATH GAME OF CAT AND MOUSE!

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS **TAKE** IT FROM ME!! AS IF **YOU** COULD MANAGE IT IN 100 YEARS—

THE ONLY THING THAT CAN **SAVE** THAT GIRL IS THE **ANTIDOTE** CONTAINED IN THE **HILT OF THIS SWORD!**

?!

ガシ

P

HE WAS ON ME IN AN INSTANT!

HOW COULD...WHO THE HELL ARE YOU...?!

TA THUMP

HUH...?

HOW...?

...FOR WHAT YOU **DID TO KEIKO.**

THE GUY WHO'S GONNA **MANGLE** YOU...

**THAT'S** THE TYPE OF HUMAN I HATE THE **MOST...!!**

SO... YOU'RE THE SORT WHO **RISES TO THE OCCASION** WHEN A FRIEND'S IN NEED...

**BLASTED ANNOYING!**



# CHAPTER 24: THE FEARSOME, GRUESOME BINDING CURSE!!

HIS POWER AND ABILITY **INCREASE** TO MEET THE SITUATION.

HIS ATTACK CAUGHT ME COMPLETELY OFF GUARD.

BRAM BLE

MY GUARD IS UP, AND WILL **STAY UP!** NO WAY YOU'RE GETTING THE **ANTIDOTE!!**

BUT YOU **DIDN'T** TAKE THE SWORD FROM ME RIGHT THEN... A **MISTAKE.**

GUARD

SO YOU SAY.

THE GIRL'S THIRD EYE WILL OPEN. THERE'S NO STOPPING IT.

ZAZZ

SHE **WILL BE** MY DEMON SLAVE!

YOU'RE FAST, BUT MY SPEED IS BEYOND IMAGINATION!!

SO I KNOW!!

YOU CAN'T EVEN FOLLOW MY AFTERIMAGE!

SEE!

YOU SEE?!

WHACK

GLARE

!!

GOT HIM!!

# Chapter24: THE FEARSOME, GRUESOME BINDING CURSE!!

THAT'S IT? YOU SCURRY AROUND LIKE A RAT UNTIL I WALLOP YOU?

CAN'T SAY I'M IMPRESSED WITH YOU **OR** THAT EVIL EYE OF YOURS.

BUT NEVER MIND... LET'S **FINISH** IT!

UNH!

HURK!

...!!

...IT ALL!

GRRRGH

CURSE...

...I'D HAVE TO **TRANSFORM** TO FIGHT **YOU...**

I NEVER THOUGHT...

GRRR!!

SHEEE

HAAH!

!?

FOOM

AIEEE!!

YIKES!!

WOOM

UNH...
THE EYE'S POWER'S BEEN **BOOSTED!**
CAN'T HOLD IT **CLOSED!!**

BUT IF IT OPENS, THAT'S IT! KEIKO'S A **DEMON!!**

SLIFF SLIFF

HER THIRD EYE IS REACTING TO MINE.

HEH HEH, THE GIRL'S AS GOOD AS **DEMONIFIED!!**

KEIKO!! BOTAN!!

THAT **LIGHT!** WHAT'S GOING ON...?!

YII!

CAN'T MOVE!

KEEAH

OF COURSE...

WAA

...THAT'S THE LEAST OF YOUR WORRIES NOW!!

GUH...

SHK

SO THIS IS HIS TRUE FORM...

-NO.2-

-NO.3-

-NO.4-

INCREDIBLE... A TORRENT OF DEMONIC POWER!!

UGGH...!

URNN...

IMMOBILE... LIKE I'VE BEEN COCOONED!!

EXCELLENT! NOT EVEN YOU COULD ESCAPE A BINDING CURSE CAST BY ALL MY EVIL EYES!

NOW I WILL HAVE SATISFACTION!!

WHACK

CRACK

SLAM

POW

UGH!

UHNN!

HAH!

HAH!

HAH!

SHIGA

STILL, FOR A HUMAN, YOU PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT! OUT OF RESPECT...

...I'LL FINISH YOU WITH ONE THRUST!

NO WAY... TO STOP HIM...!!

GUUH...

NOW YOU SEE THE DIFFERENCE IN OUR ABILITIES.

RRG

ARRGH !!

DIE!!

KO

WHAT?!

SHIZARD

YOU TOOK MY KILLING STROKE!!

KURAMA? ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!

AAGH! CURSE YOU, MY EYE...!!

ORG! BLOOD?!

THE EYES ALL OVER HIS BODY AMPLIFIED HIS POWER...

...BUT THE ONE ON HIS FOREHEAD IS THE **SOURCE** OF IT.

I... CAN **MOVE** AGAIN!!

!!

BUT... YOU'VE GOT A **SWORD** IN YOUR GUT!

I'M A **DEMON**, REMEMBER? I'LL GET OVER IT.

NOW GO, BEFORE HIEI'S EVIL EYE **RECOVERS!!**

IT'S BLIND NOW, WHICH EVENS THINGS UP.

FINISH YOUR BUSINESS. I'LL SEE TO THE GIRL.

YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS! I'LL **MASSACRE** YOU!

**KURAMA! YOU TRAITOR!**

UNH...

KURAMA...

AREN'T YOU **FORGETTING** SOMETHING?

URK!!

BOOK BOOK BOOK BOOK

IF THIS KEEPS UP, HE'LL BE A **SERIOUS THREAT** SOMEDAY!!

UNBELIEVABLE! EVERY TIME HE **ESCAPES DANGER** HIS SPIRITUAL STRENGTH GROWS!

SHI

I'LL KILL YOU **NOW**, HUMAN!!

AND I'LL MAKE SURE YOU'RE DEAD!

OOM!!

URF!

KA

OW!!

UGH!

SHOOM!!

WHACK

SHAFF

PUNCH

UNH!

SKRZK SKRZK

AWW... RUNNING AWAY? TSK!

HE'S STILL NO MATCH FOR ME!!

HA!!

...JUST A BIT MORE...

ALMOST...

HA HA HA!

NOW YOU DIE!!

NOT JUST YET, JERK!!

BINGO!!

!!

WHU-?!

...

EEEYII!!

YOU'VE PROVEN TO BE FAR MORE THAN YOU **SEEM!** BUT YOU'RE **DONE**, I CAN TELL!

THE **REI GUN!** HELL OF AN **ACE** YOU HAD UP YOUR SLEEVE!

SCUFF SCUFF

...THERE'S NOWHERE TO GO.

TROMP

SHUFFLE ALL YOU LIKE, DETECTIVE...

TROMP

...

SCOOT SCOOT

IF YOU'D HAD TIME TO IMPROVE, YOU MIGHT'VE **WINGED** ME.

SHFF

...BUT I'M SENDING YOU FIRST!!

YOU AND YOUR THREE FRIENDS ARE GOING TO HELL...

SLUMP

...

HUFF HUFF

HEH... THAT'S BETTER.

BLAM

YAAH!

WHO DID THAT?! HOW...?

I'M HIT!!

CLATTER

TH-THE MIRROR OF DARKNESS?!

CLIK CLAK

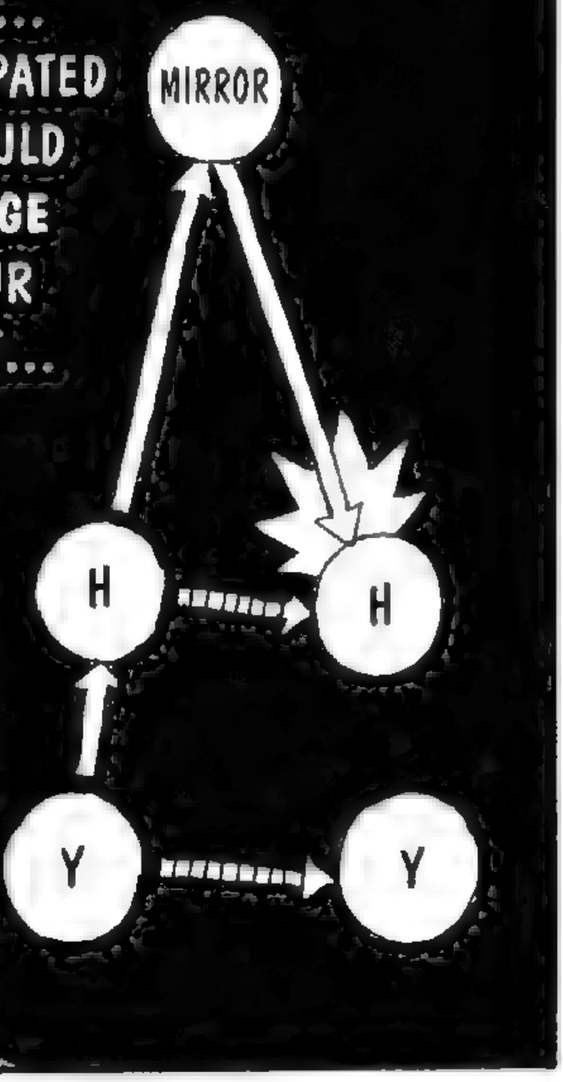
WHO...

THAT'S ABOUT THE SIZE OF IT.

MY FLOUNDERING **LURED** YOU INTO THE PATH OF THE RICOCHET.

...AND USED THE MIRROR TO REFLECT IT **BACK** AT ME!!

YOU... ANTICIPATED I WOULD **DODGE** YOUR SHOT...



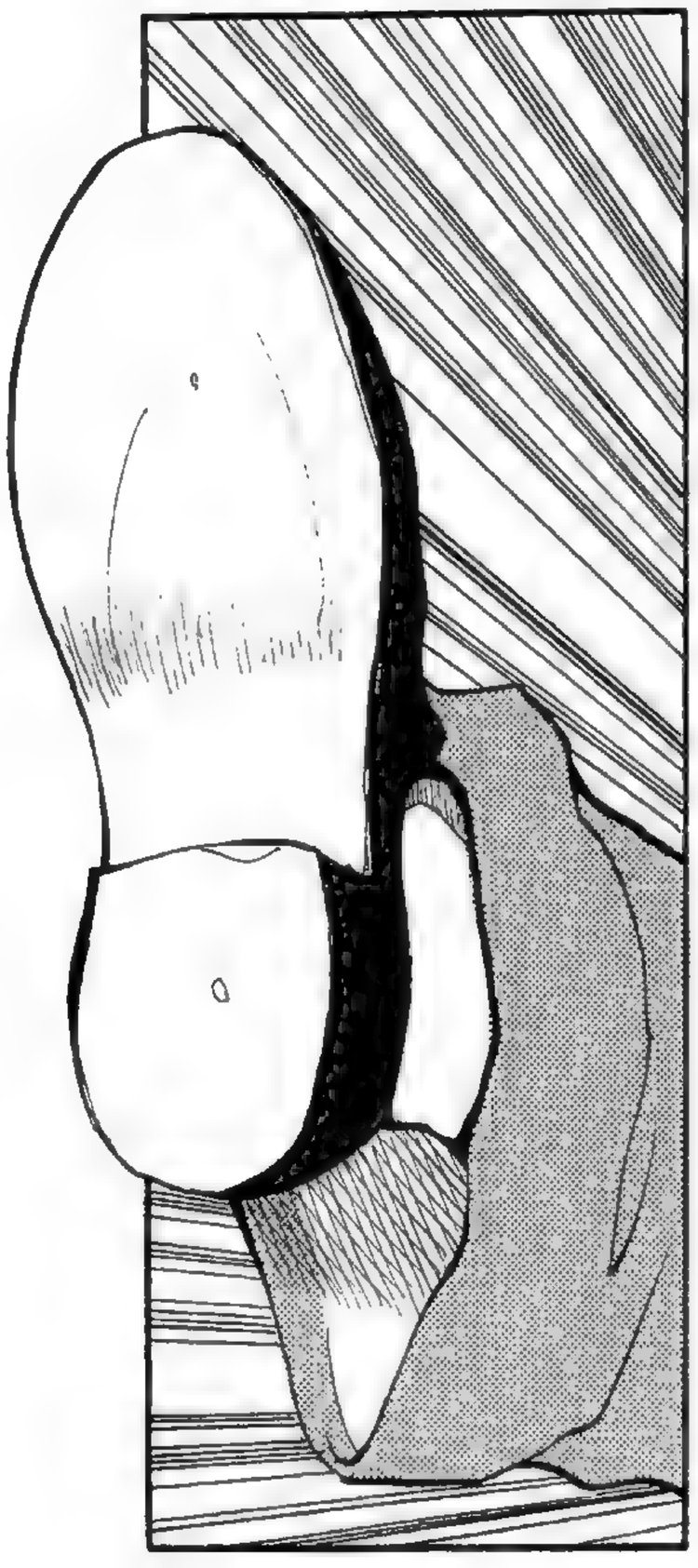

STAGGER...

...BELIEVE YOU...

I CAN'T...

PUNCH





KEIKO! IS SHE...?

ARE YOU GUYS ALL RIGHT?!

SHE'S FINE. THE ANTIDOTE'S WORKING.

WHEW!

I OWE YOU, MAN...

HOW'RE YOU DOING, KURAMA...?

THE THIRD EYE'S FADING...

HEH... SO MUCH FOR HIM.

HELL OF A FIGHT, THOUGH...

HISSSS

HUH?

WHEN DID YOU FIGURE OUT YOUR REI GUN BLAST COULD **REFLECT** OFF A MIRROR?

YOU COULD'VE LET **ME** IN ON THAT LITTLE **PLAN** OF YOURS, YOU RASCAL.

DON'T SWEAT IT. I'LL BE OKAY.

MY TRIAL'S PENDING, SO I'LL JUST STAY HOME UNTIL THEN AND MEND.

I JUST REALIZED HE WAS SO FAST THAT I'D NEVER BAG HIM WITH A DIRECT SHOT.

YOU THINK I HAD A **PLAN?** FEH! IT WAS A **FLASH OF INSIGHT!**

I'D JUST THINK OF SOMETHING **ELSE!**

**POINT BLANK!**

...WHAT WERE YOU GONNA DO IF **THAT** DIDN'T WORK?!

...

HEH.

BUT WHAT ELSE COULD I DO? THEN I SAW THE MIRROR OF DARKNESS ACROSS THE ROOM, WHERE HE'D DROPPED IT.

I JUST TOOK A CHANCE THE AURA BLAST WAS ENOUGH LIKE LIGHT TO REFLECT BACK.

LITERALLY A HIT-OR-MISS PROPOSITION!

BUT...

IT MEANS WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE...

HOLD ON, KURAMA! WHAT'S **THAT** SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?

SO, YOU DIDN'T HAVE A PLAN AFTER ALL. I THINK I'M STARTING TO UNDERSTAND HOW YOU WORK...

...AND THEY COULDN'T GET THEM FIXED UP BEFORE KING ENMA RETURNED. SO HE FOUND OUT **ANYWAY.**

...THE SWORD WAS ALL **RUSTY** WITH **BLOOD**, THE MIRROR WAS **CRACKED...**

...BUT THEY **HAD** BEEN **RETURNED,** SO HE WAS ONLY A BIT MAD.

YEAH...

OH BOY! BET HE WAS **PISSED!**

DON'T TELL ANYONE...

...

A BIT?

MASTER KOENMA GOT A **SPANKING.**

SHH!! NOT SO **LOUD!!**

HAW! A KID'S A KID NO MATTER HOW MANY CENTURIES OLD HE IS, EH?

LATER...

WE ARRESTED GOKI AND HIEI...

...AND GOT THE 3 TREASURES BACK WITH **2 DAYS** TO SPARE!

SO KOENMA'S POP NEVER FOUND OUT THEY'D BEEN STOLEN.

ACTUALLY...

!

MORNING!

SO THE *THREE DARK TREASURES CASE* IS **CLOSED!**

BETTER THAN **EARTHQUAKES.**

HMM... NOT QUITE.

OOPS.

I STILL HAVEN'T CLEARED THINGS UP WITH HER.

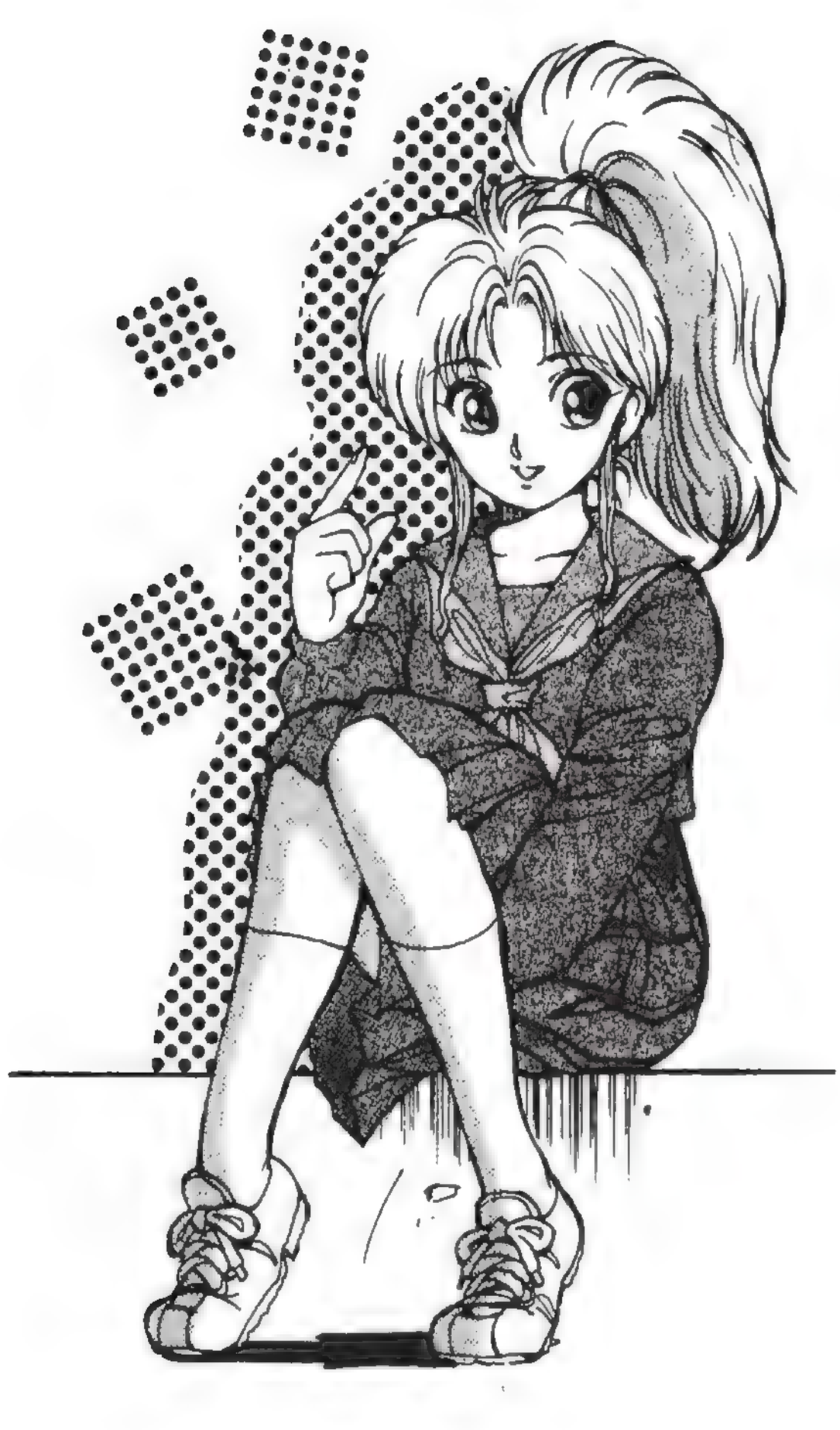
RATS.

KEIKO, C'MON! KEIKO!

HA HA... LOOKS LIKE **MASTER KOENMA'S** THE ONE WHO GOT OFF **EASY.**

KEIKO, WAIT UP!

LISTEN, I CAN EXPLAIN **EVERYTHING.** HEY...!



...SPEND HIS HOLIDAY HIKING IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE?

GRR... STUPID WOODS! WHAT **IDIOT** WOULD...

WHEW!

I HOPE **THIS IS** IT!!

HMM... MAP SAYS IT SHOULD BE HERE...

# CHAPTER 25: OPERATION: INFILTRATE!!

# Chapter 25: OPERATION: INFILTRATE!!



!!

MAN, SOME CROWD! ARE THEY ALL HERE FOR THE "TRIALS"?

WHIRR

WHIRR

HO HO

WHAT KIND OF FREAK IS THIS MASTER GENKAI, ANYWAY?

SHEE... THEY'RE ALL WEIRDOS.

THEY SAY HER TECHNIQUES ARE UNPARALLELED.

HUH! WORD GETS AROUND THAT MASTER GENKAI IS TAKING ON A PUPIL, AND **HALF THE COUNTRY** SHOWS UP.

GAWD, WHAT AM I **DOING** HERE?

**ONE** PUPIL? SHE'S GONNA HAVE A JOB NARROWING THIS BUNCH DOWN.

BOTAN! **SHE** SWEET-TALKED ME INTO THIS!

THE TRAINING MUST BE **INCREDIBLY INTENSE.**

...

MY NEW MISSION'S AN **INFILTRATION?**

A FEW DAYS EARLIER...

HEH. DON'T TELL ME I'M GOING TO HELL... LITERALLY.

INTO **WHAT?** **WHERE?**

SHE'S A WOMAN, AND A HUMAN. SHE'S ONE OF THE TOP FIVE **REIKI** MASTERS, ACCORDING TO KOENMA.

WHO'S THIS GENKAI DUDE?

GENKAI, A FRIEND OF KING ENMA JR., IS TAKING ON A PUPIL.

NAW, THIS IS A LIVING WORLD JOB.

SHE'S MADE A SOLITARY PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE, BUT SHE'S GETTING OLDER...

IT'S AN IMPORTANT MATTER, AND WE WANT YOU TO APPLY FOR THE POSITION.

...AND SHE WANTS TO PASS ON WHAT SHE'S ACHIEVED TO A NEW GENERATION.

THERE'RE LEGIONS OF EVIL SPIRITS WHO BEHAVE THEMSELVES ONLY OUT OF FEAR OF HER EXORCISM.

THAT'S THE STORY.

Jr

MY BUTT STILL HURTS.

A LOT OF DEMONS WOULD STOP AT NOTHING TO LEARN THE TECHNIQUES GENKAI HAS DEVELOPED.

NATURALLY, DEMONS WOULD LIKE TO MASTER THESE TECHNIQUES THEMSELVES. WITH THEM, THEY COULD WREAK UNTOLD HAVOC.

Jr

...SINCE IT'S UNLIKELY WE'LL EVER GET HIM TO SUBMIT TO FORMAL TRAINING AND HARD WORK.

THIS WILL ALSO SERVE AS YUSUKE'S TRAINING...

HE DOESN'T NEED TO HEAR THAT PART.

YUP! A SIMPLE MATTER OF PREVENTION.

SO I'M TO MAKE SURE NO DEMON GRABS THE POST OF PUPIL TO THIS GENKAI CHARACTER?

HE'S STOLEN THE SECRETS OF 99 MARTIAL ARTISTS AND MONKS SO FAR, AND THE BUZZ IS HE AIMS TO ROUND THAT OFF TO A TIDY 100 WITH MASTER GENKAI.

KEEP A PARTICULAR EYE OUT FOR RANDO, A DEMON OF BATTLE WHO SPECIALIZES IN DEFEATING MARTIAL ARTS MASTERS.

NO ONE KNOWS HOW MANY REPORTED MISSING PERSONS ARE IN TRUTH **VICTIMS** OF HIS EXPERIMENTS.

ONCE HE STEALS A TECHNIQUE, HE ADAPTS IT TO HIS OWN STYLE AND TRIES IT OUT ON HUMANS.

NO, NOT GOOD AT ALL.

THAT'S A **LOT** OF PEOPLE. NOT GOOD.

HMM...

WE FEAR THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS WOULD AT LEAST **DOUBLE** IF HE GAINS MASTER GENKAI'S SKILLS.

HEY! I CAN'T BE ON THE JOB **ALL** THE TIME!!

YOU'D ACTUALLY **COMPARE** THE TWO?!

...

ON THE OTHER HAND, I WANNA ENJOY MY DAY OFF.

GROOOAN

BONUS?

I FORGOT TO MENTION THAT YOU'RE SLATED FOR A **BONUS** IF YOU COMPLETE THIS MISSION.

HA HA HA

WE MUST STOP THAT CREEP FOR HUMANITY'S SAKE!!

RIGHT ON!

SUCKERED, THAT'S WHAT I WAS.

HOW'D BOTAN FIGURE OUT I WAS A MARTIAL ARTS FAN?

YEE-HAH! I'M ON THE CASE!!

THIS! A RINGSIDE SEAT AT THE MIXED MARTIAL ARTS MATCH IN THE TOKYO DOME!

YO!! URAMESHI!!

HUH?

OH, WELL... ODDS ARE I WON'T BE CHOSEN, SO I'LL BE ABLE TO SPLIT SOON ENOUGH.

EH?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

KUWABARA?!

DA—

YOU CAME, AND YOU **DON'T KNOW?**

WHO THE HELL IS THIS GENKAI, ANYWAY?

MY SISTER SAID I SHOULD COME HERE FOR ADVICE, BUT THIS **CROWD...** SHEESH.

MY SIXTH SENSE IS GETTING OUT OF HAND. I KEEP SEEING AND HEARING THINGS ALL THE TIME... AND MY SLEEP PARALYSIS IS GROWING WORSE.

ACCORDING TO MY SISTER, SHE'S A TOP-NOTCH MASTER OF REIKI.

...LIKE PULVERIZING ROCKS BY CONCENTRATING ENERGY IN YOUR FIST, OR HEALING THE SICK AND INJURED WITH YOUR OWN LIFE FORCE. REACH MASTER GENKAI'S LEVEL OF SKILL, AND YOU CAN **BLOW PEOPLE AWAY** WITHOUT EVEN **TOUCHING** THEM.

IF YOU CAN CONTROL IT, YOU CAN ACQUIRE ALL KINDS OF POWERS...

THAT'S THE FLOW OF AURA THAT SURROUNDS THE HUMAN BODY.

ORDER IN THE COURTYARD! MASTER GENKAI APPROACHES!

SHIIIFF

TA-DA

THAT SHRIVELED RUNT? THAT'S **GENKAI?!**

LET'S WHITTLE THIS DOWN A BIT, SHALL WE?

WELL, NOW. QUITE A CROWD, I SEE.

GLARE

...HOW COULD SHE BE MASTER OF ANYTHING?

I DON'T GET IT...

NO PROBLEM. WE CAN TACKLE ANYTHING!!

HERE WE GO. THIS'LL BE ROUGH...

THE FIRST TEST IS...

DOOM

GULP

DRAWING LOTS.

EACH OF YOU WILL TAKE AN ENVELOPE FROM THIS JAR.

THAT'S IT? WHAT'S **THAT** PROVE?!

WHAT THE... **A LOTTERY?!**

IT'LL BE A PERFECT EXCUSE TO DITCH THIS SCENE.

WELL... THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT THE LUCK OF THE DRAW, IS THERE?

THE LADY'S **SENILE.** I'M WASTING MY TIME HERE.

ALL I CAME FOR WAS SOME ADVICE...

IF THERE'S A PIECE OF RED PAPER INSIDE, YOU'VE PASSED.

EVERYBODY GOT ONE? GOOD. OPEN THEM, PLEASE.

NO! WHITE!!

RED!!

OH NO! WHITE!

IT'S RED!

GACK!

C'MON WHITE...!

RRIP

...TO TURN RED WHEN HELD BY SOMEONE WITH SIGNIFICANT SPIRITUAL POWER.

THEY THINK IT'S LUCK, BUT I TREATED THOSE PAPERS...

YOURS IS RED TOO?!

EVERYONE ELSE, YOU ARE EXCUSED.

THOSE WHO PASSED, FOLLOW ME.

JUST A **MINUTE** THERE!

HOW'D THESE OXEN LOOM OUT OF NOWHERE?

WE'RE **FAMOUS SPIRITUALISTS** FROM **KYUSHU!**

WE DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY TO GET **TURNED AWAY** LIKE **THIS!**

CAN'T SAY I BLAME 'EM! WHAT A **RIPOFF** THIS WAS!

WHOA, THOSE GUYS **TOWER** OVER MASTER GENKAI! AND THEY **DON'T LOOK HAPPY!**

LISTEN, YOU **PIPSQUEAKS,** AND LISTEN GOOD-

I GAVE YOU A CHANCE TO LEAVE QUIETLY AND SAVE FACE, BUT YOU'RE **BLOWING** IT.

IT'D BETTER BE GOOD, OR YOU'RE GONNA BE **IN FOR IT!**

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO **SAY** FOR YOURSELF?!

GO HOME, KNOCK BACK SOME BREWS, AND GET A LIFE.

YOU CALL YOURSELVES **SPIRITUALISTS?** YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW **WHY** YOU LOST! YOU'RE PHONIES, AND YOU'RE WASTING MY TIME.

**ENOUGH OF YOUR INSULTS!!**

**GRRR!**

**RRRR!**

DAM DAM

WE WILL NOT BE MOCKED!!

CLAR

NO MATTER WHAT **SKILLS** SHE HAS, THERE'S NO **WAY** SHE CAN STOP THOSE BRUTES!

THEY'VE LOST IT! THEY'LL **PULP** HER!!

KAH!!

WHO

SH... SHE BLEW 'EM AWAY!!

WITHOUT EVEN TOUCHING 'EM!!

?!

WHOOSH

SO THAT'S WHAT SHE CAN DO!!

NOW... HMPH. GETTING OLD SUCKS.

SIGH... ONCE UPON A TIME, I COULD MAKE GUYS LIKE THAT WET THEMSELVES JUST BY LOOKING AT THEM.

SHUFF SHUFF

STOP STOP STOP

DON'T STAND THERE **GAWKING** - COME ON.

AND THOSE WHO'VE PASSED THE FIRST PHASE OF TESTING ARE AT LEAST SOMEWHAT GIFTED.

ANYWAY, THESE APPLICANTS NOW SEE THAT SIZE ISN'T EVERYTHING.

I'D HEARD THE RUMORS BUT... THAT WAS **INCREDIBLE.**

SKILLS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO STRIKE FEAR IN THE HEARTS OF DEMONS! THOSE WOULD BE WORTH HAVING!

GUESS I'LL STICK AROUND AFTER ALL... AND **WIN** THIS COMPETITION!

THE COMPASS SHOULD PINPOINT...

SNAP

OH, YEAH - AND I'D BETTER CHECK FOR THIS GUY **RANDO.**

WHAT TH' HEY?

IT... BLEW UP!!

BREEP BREEP

YAAAH!!

YOU WERE **RIGHT,** BOTAN.

...!!

THE COMPASS MIGHT GO HAYWIRE IF A DEMON AS POTENT AS RANDO IS ANYWHERE NEARBY.

NOW I KNOW...

RANDO IS HERE!!

# THE CURSED FOREST!!

## Chapter 26:

IN ORDER TO THWART INFILTRATING DEMONS, YUSUKE HAS INFILTRATED MASTER GENKAI'S DISCIPLE SELECTION TRIALS **HIMSELF**...

...ONLY TO RECEIVE CONFIRMATION OF THE PRESENCE OF **RANDO**, A DEMON OF EXTRAORDINARY **POWER AND AMBITION!**

...BUT HOW DO I FIND OUT WHICH ONE?

RANDO COULD BE ANY OF THESE GUYS...

NOT BAD.

ABOUT FIFTY LEFT.

WHAT'RE YOU YAKKIN' ABOUT, **SCUZZ?**

**YOU'RE** NOT HIM, THAT'S FOR SURE.

WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF **INTO?**

...

WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO THE SECOND PHASE OF TESTING!

?!

BWAHAHAHA!

WHAT TH' DING-DONG?!

IT'S AN ARCADE!

THAT'S RIGHT. NOW LISTEN UP.

WE'RE GONNA BE TESTED HERE?

...HOW WILL THIS PROVE ANYONE'S SUITABILITY TO BE YOUR PUPIL?

MASTER, I DON'T UNDER-STAND...

EACH OF YOU WILL PLAY THESE GAMES TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY.

PLING

THESE MACHINES HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO MEASURE YOUR CAPACITIES IN VARIOUS WAYS.

YOUR **SPIRITUALLY-** DERIVED CAPACITIES, I SHOULD SAY.

THE **KARAOKE GAME** MEASURES YOUR LIFE ENERGY.

(ENERGY LATENT IN THE BODY)
ONE TRY; 70 POINTS
REQUIRED TO PASS

THE **PUNCHING GAME** MEASURES YOUR SPIRITUAL MIGHT.

BAG

(OFFENSIVE POWER AND SPEED)
3 TRIES; 120 POINTS
REQUIRED TO PASS

THE **ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS** GAME MEASURES YOUR SIXTH SENSE.

EXCITEMENT

YOU WIN

(SENSITIVITY, CAPACITY TO HANDLE CHARMS AND SPELLS)
10+ WINS OUT OF 15
REQUIRED TO PASS

OH, AND ONE MORE THING...

OF THE THREE TESTING GAMES, YOU MUST PASS **TWO** OF THEM!

NOTHING. THEY'RE JUST FOR FUN.

WHAT DO **TETRIS** AND **ASTEROIDS** MEASURE?

GREEDY OLD BAG.

...THEY'RE **100 YEN** EACH TO PLAY.

KUWABARA

BEEP!!!

18P

BAG

TERRIBLE.

HOW'S **THAT?**

OUGHTA BE A CINCH FOR ME.

I'LL TAKE THE FIRST WHACK.

CLINK

GOOD FOR YOU! BUT THERE'S NO HINT OF SPIRITUAL POWER WORKING WITH YOUR PHYSICAL STRENGTH! YOU'VE **FAILED!**

CAN'T BE! I HOLD THE **RECORD** FOR THE NISHIOGI PUNCHING GAME!!

129P

BAGO!!

WOW! PASS!

KUWABARA

OOOK

WHACK

YOU **JOKING,** KUWABARA?

JUST WATCH.

CAN YOU **TOP THAT,** URAMESHI?

HYAH!

WOOOH!!

155 POINTS!

THERE YA GO.

155P

WITH A BIT OF TRAINING, THAT BOY COULD BECOME A FIRST CLASS DEMON-SLAYER.

I WONDER IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER PROSPECTS...

THAT ONE'S GOT SOME SERIOUS SPIRITUAL PUNCH.

HMM...

FAT CHANCE, BUCKO!

I'LL BEAT YOU IN ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS!!

BWAHAHA

HE CAME ON A MISSION? WHAT MISSION?

MIGHT BE ABLE TO TRAIN HIM UP TO SOME OF THE ADVANCED WEAPONS AND TECHNIQUES.

THAT LANKY KID'S GOT A **POWERFUL SIXTH SENSE.**

OOOH

HM...?

WOW!!

QUK QUK

MAN! MY INTU-ITION'S **PATHETIC!**

HOW 'BOUT **THAT,** URA-MESHI?!

WOW, HE NAILED ALL **15** ROUNDS!

2 WINS 13 LOSSES

The symbol on Kaze-Maru's forehead is a **manji**, which reflects ancient Buddhist tradition.

GYAAH! THAT'S THE **WORST SINGING** I'VE EVER HEARD!

BUT HE'S SCORED 100! YOU CAN ACTUALLY SEE HIS AURA!

HE'S EVEN **BETTER** THAN THAT **KID!**

THIS GUY SCORED **171** ON THE PUNCHING GAME!

SOME REAL **CONTENDERS** HERE. BETTER THAN I'D HOPED.

WAIL AWAY, CHUMP!

KARAOKE! **THAT'LL** SETTLE THIS!

HMM... DIDN'T THINK SO MANY WOULD GET THIS FAR.

TWENTY MAKE IT THROUGH THE SECOND PHASE...

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT? WHERE'RE WE GOING?

SHE'S TAKING US A LONG WAY FROM THE TEMPLE.

YOU'VE PASSED THE PRELIM-INARIES.

NOW FOR A **SERIOUS** TEST OF YOUR CAPABILITIES.

DOOOM

GACK?!

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?!

THIS IS A PRIMITIVE FOREST TEEMING WITH DANGEROUS BEASTS AND DEADLY TRAPS, WHERE COMPASSES WON'T FUNCTION, AND ALL MANNER OF DEMONS DWELL. IT'S CALLED THE **CURSED FOREST.**

IT IS NO PLACE FOR **ORDINARY** PEOPLE. NONE **EVER** COME OUT ALIVE.

MORE THAN CREEPY! IT SEEMS TO BE EMITTING A **DEMONIC AURA.**

A TEST... IN THIS CREEPY FOREST?

YOU'LL PASS IF YOU REACH IT WITHIN TWO HOURS.

SEE THAT LARGE TREE IN THE DISTANCE? THAT IS YOUR GOAL.

THOSE DEPARTING ARE WISE.

FACING THE **TANGIBLE MENACE** OF THE FOREST, MANY LEARN THEIR LIMITS AND HEED THE LESSON.

RISK MY NECK FOR A BUNCH OF MARTIAL ARTS TRICKS? **NO THANKS!**

THAT'S IT! I'M **OUTTA** HERE!

TRUP TRUP TRUP

YEAH! ALL YOU **WANNABES** GO HOME!

ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE HAD PROPER TRAINING SHOULD TAKE THIS CHALLENGE.

SO IT **SHOULD** BE.

THAT'S **MASTER** HAG TO YOU, PUNK.

DO OR DIE, I WANT TO LEARN THE STUFF THIS HAG KNOWS.

I'M IN!

HMPH

?

IS THAT THE **REAL** ADVANTAGE YOU TWO HAVE?

WHO SAYS TRAINING'LL MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE ANYWAY?

HE CAME FOR **ADVICE?** **WHAT** ADVICE?

WITH GENKAI'S TECHNIQUES, I COULD REALIZE MY FONDEST WISH: **PULVERIZING** URAMESHI!

IT'S **YOUR NECK,** DUM-DUM!

IF YOU'RE DOIN' IT, I'M DOIN' IT!

POW

READY...
GET SET...
**GO!**

IF YOU USE YOUR SIXTH SENSE TO AVOID DANGER, YOU **MIGHT** JUST MAKE IT!

IF YOU KEEP UP WITH ME YOU'LL GET THERE QUICKER.

SHOOM

LOOKIT HER GO!

I'LL MEET YOU AT THE TREE.

SHE'S NOT **HUMAN!**

HUH?

THE STRAIGHT PATH IS **ALWAYS** THE QUICKEST WAY!

SIXTH SENSE... PHOOEY!

POW

BOTAN ALL GUSSIED UP

AN HOUR LATER...

NO ONE'S MADE IT YET.

NOT SURPRISING. GUESS I'LL CHECK THEIR PROGRESS.

HMM... THE CLOSEST AURA'S ABOUT 500 METERS AWAY.

LOOKS LIKE 5 OR 6 OF 'EM STILL HAVE A SHOT AT MAKING THE TIME.

HMM...

I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THAT DIRECTION, SO I'LL TRY THIS.

...AND I HAVEN'T COME ACROSS ANY TRAPS OR DEMONS. I **MUST** BE GOING THE RIGHT WAY...

I'VE MANAGED TO KINDA FOLLOW MY INSTINCTS...

CURRENTLY IN FIRST PLACE

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

Iron Fist

head

...OR AM I JUST GOING IN CIRCLES...?

IS IT MY IMAGINATION...

I'M... I'M RIGHT BACK WHERE I **STARTED!**

CURRENTLY IN 15TH PLACE

FAIL

GLK GLK GLK

DEMON "BUG-UGLY BEAST"

HELP MEE!

FRUP FRUP FRUP

FAIL

HO HO HO HO

DEMON PLANT "LOITER WEED"

?!

OW!

CURRENTLY IN 10TH PLACE

I'VE **LOST** THE TRAIL! I CAN'T TELL WHAT DIRECTION I'M GOING IN ANYMORE! AND **WHEREVER** I AM...

...IT'S CRAWLING WITH **SNAKES** AND **LEECHES!** YUCK!

NOW WHAT?!

A NEST OF **BATS?!**

!!

WHAT **FOOL** DARES TO ENTER MY **DOMAIN...**

SQUEAK

SCREECH

EEEEP

...JUST IN TIME FOR SUPPER?

## BAT MASTER

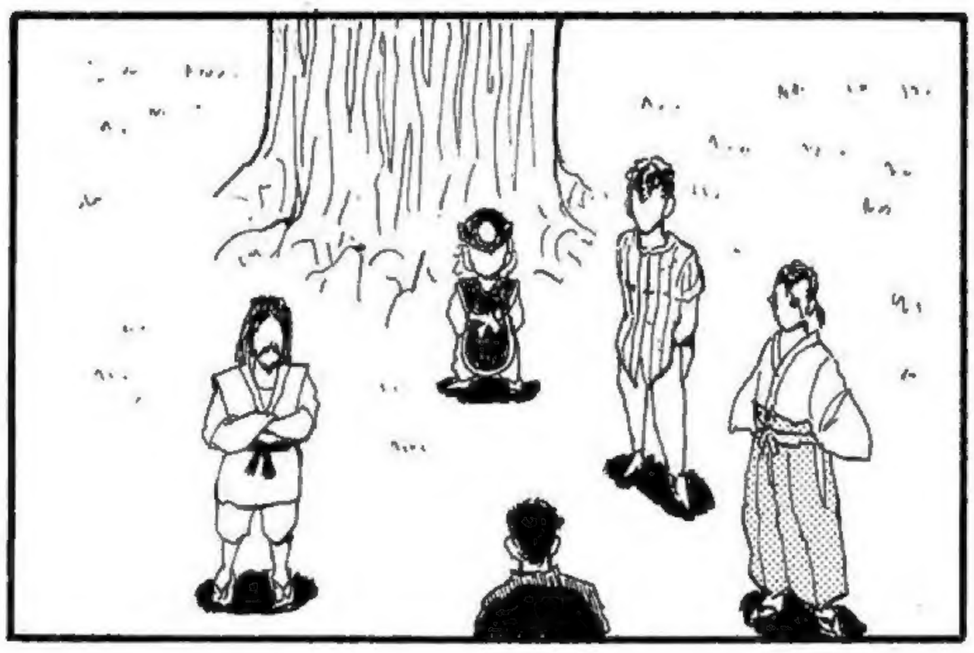
CONTROLS BATS BY EMITTING A SPECIAL ULTRASONIC SOUND. BLOOD IS ITS NECTAR, AND IT WILL ATTACK HIKERS AND TAKE THEIR MONEY AND VALUABLES. ITS SHARP FANGS AND CLAWS ARE DEADLY WEAPONS.

YUUUM!

FORTUNATELY, I'M HERE TO RESCUE ANYONE WHO BECOMES HOPELESSLY TRAPPED.

HEH... SEEMS THEY'RE ALL HAVING TROUBLE.

YIPES!!






AND!!

LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE 7 FINALISTS.

WAIT! THERE SHOULD BE EIGHT OF US!

OH?

...

...

AND RULES ARE RULES.

THERE'S ONLY ONE MINUTE LEFT.

NO, WAIT!! LOOK THERE!!

TIME'S UP...

RUSTLE RUSTLE

URAMESHI!

YOU SAID YOU HEADED **STRAIGHT** FOR THIS TREE?

THEN YOU WOULD HAVE MET THE BAT MASTER, THE TOUGHEST DEMON IN THE FOREST...

THOUGHT I'D **NEVER** GET HERE IN TIME!

SO MUCH FOR TAKING THE STRAIGHT PATH, **DAMMIT!**

HE **CAPTURED** THE BAT MASTER? WHO **IS** THIS GUY?

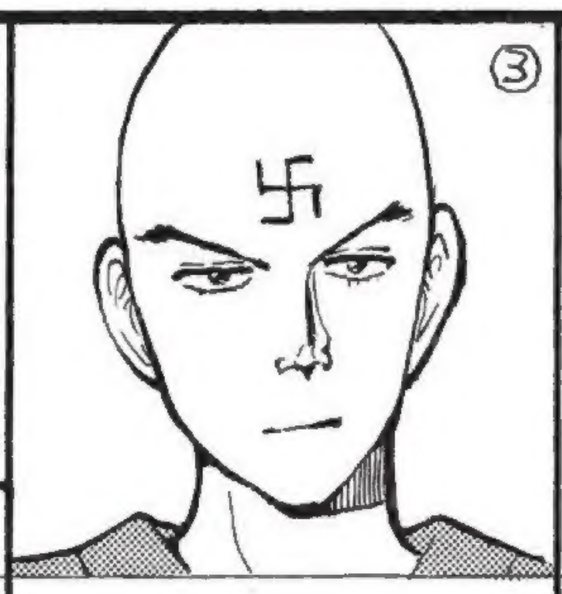
HE WAS A REAL PEST, FLUTTERING AROUND AND SCREECHING! TOOK FOREVER TO **BAG** THE LITTLE SUCKER!

WHAT? YOU MEAN **THIS** GUY?

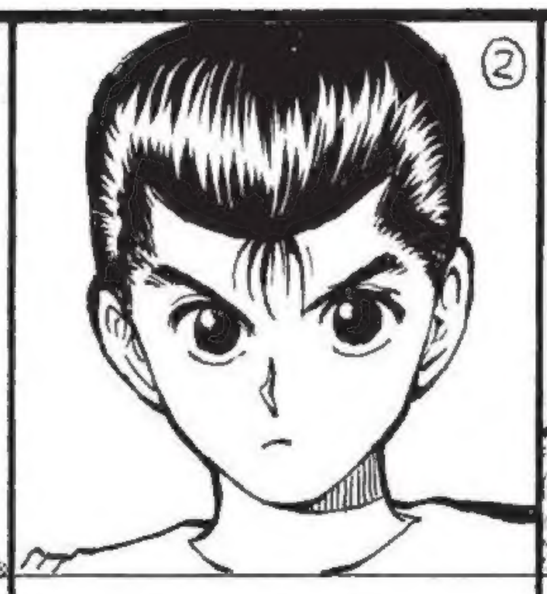
THIS JOB SUCKS...



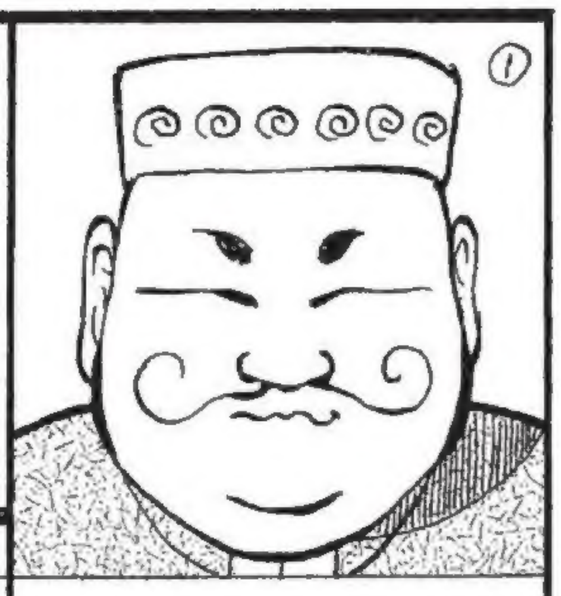

SENSE: 13 WINS 2 LOSSES
PUNCH: 138P
KARAOKE: 75P




SENSE: 12 WINS 3 LOSSES
PUNCH: 130P
KARAOKE: 100P

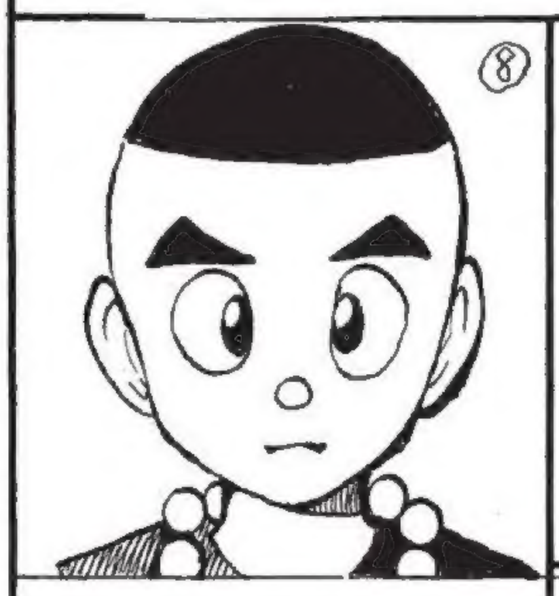



SENSE: 2 WINS 13 LOSSES
PUNCH: 155P
KARAOKE: 82P




SENSE: 10 WINS 5 LOSSES
PUNCH: 105P
KARAOKE: 71P

AND SO THERE ARE 8, THE CREAM OF THE CROP!!
(OH YES, **RANDO** MADE IT! CAN YOU GUESS WHICH ONE HE IS?)




SENSE: 10 WINS 5 LOSSES
PUNCH: 121P
KARAOKE: 73P




SENSE: 15 WINS 0 LOSSES
PUNCH: 129P
KARAOKE: 57P

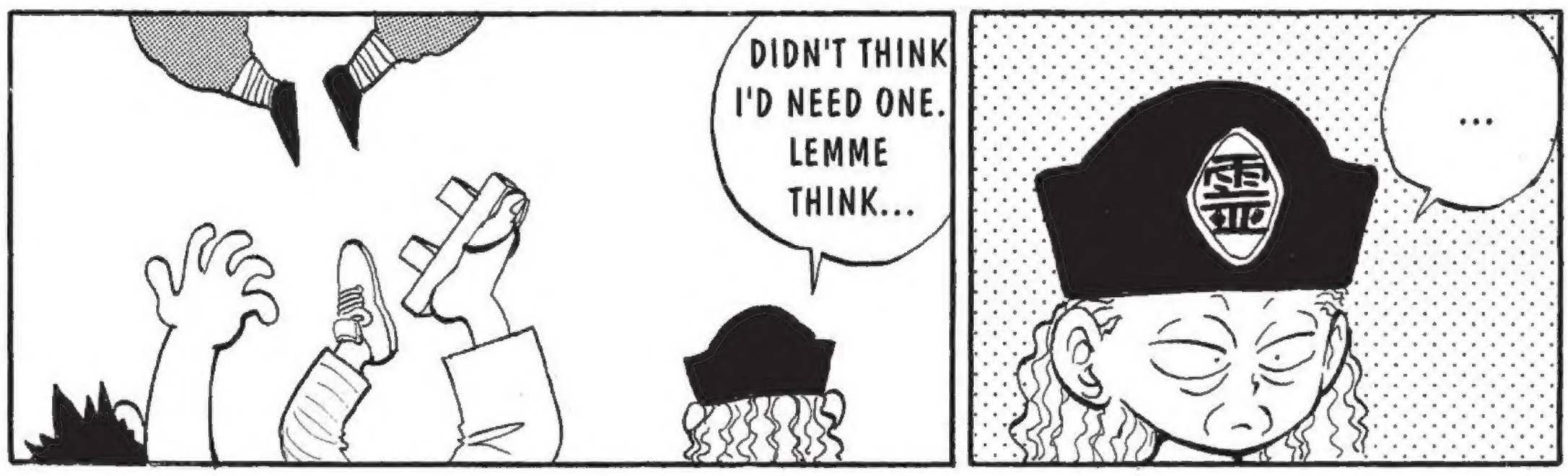



SENSE: 12 WINS 3 LOSSES
PUNCH: 130P
KARAOKE: 100P




SENSE: 7 WINS 8 LOSSES
PUNCH: 175P
KARAOKE: 85P




*TO BE CONTINUED IN YUYU HAKUSHO VOL. 4!*